

THE TIMES

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Mystery of explosion on TWA 800

Disintegrating engine or bomb caused death of 228 on board

FROM QUENTIN LETTS
IN NEW YORK
AND HARVEY ELLIOT

TWO main theories for the cause of a crash which killed all 228 people aboard a TWA jumbo jet shortly after take-off from New York were being urgently pursued by investigators last night: a catastrophic engine disintegration which sprayed red hot shards of metal into highly combustible fuel — or a terrorist bomb.

As speculation raged, President Clinton emphasised in Washington that the reason for the disaster was unknown. "Let's wait until we see the evidence," he said as he hailed rescuers who vainly tried to find survivors in the treacherous waters.

The President told victims' families: "America stands with you." He added, twice: "We do not know what caused this tragedy," and said: "I caution the American people against jumping to any conclusions."

Mike McCurry, a White House spokesman, said there had been "a variety of calls" on the eve of the opening of the Olympic Games, claiming responsibility for the crash, but their credibility was doubtful.

Among those killed were 16 high school students and five chaperones from Montoursville, Pennsylvania, on their way to a week-long language programme in France. 40 French citizens and 20 from Italy, one of whom, Christine Baily, was reported to have had a British passport.

TWA flight 800, bound for Paris, was climbing at 13,400 ft when the explosion occurred. It caught fire and fell into the water of Moriches Inlet, off the southern coast of Long Island. For hours the ocean was covered in flames as the fuel tanks burned.

Eight coastguard cutters

LH4356.
TW 800.
KL 093.

ANNULÉ CANCELLED

The arrivals board at Charles de Gaulle airport, Paris

and a volunteer flotilla of 500 small boats spent yesterday retrieving bodies from the sea and scanning a 240-square mile area for wreckage of the 25-year-old Boeing 747-100.

Twelve hours after the crash the "rescue" effort was reclassified a "search and recovery" as emergency workers concluded there was no chance of anyone surviving so long in the ocean. Last night it was reported that one of the flight recorders had been retrieved.

Off the coast, the 120-ft deep waters of the Atlantic offered up assorted debris, from pieces of the jumbo's fuselage to charred bodies. Across the area there was a pervasive smell of fuel, and small items of wreckage still carried flickering flames.

The aircraft disappeared from air traffic control radar screens at 8.48 pm New York time on Wednesday, 29 minutes after a take-off which had been delayed an hour for repairs to an item of ground

baggage equipment and by a late passenger. Flying conditions were described as perfect. The plane crashed 200 yards south of Fire Island, a skinny strip of land parallel to Long Island.

No other aircraft were reported close to flight 800, but a US military C-130 cargo plane arrived over the zone within minutes, from a training exercise. Colonel William Stratemeyer, who was aboard, said: "I saw two large orange fireballs. They looked like comets, coming straight down into the water."

Mike Weiss of the U.S. Air Force, also on the training flight, said: "We were startled by a big flash of light in the sky. The next thing we know we see huge amounts of smoke off the ocean floor." A "Mayday! Mayday!" message was heard by coast guards seconds after the explosion, but it was not known if it came from the doomed jet or someone who saw the blast and tried to

summon help. Sven Faret, piloting a private aeroplane 10 miles from the TWA jet, looked down to see the explosion. "It was the biggest thing I have ever seen in the sky," he said.

Master Sergeant Dennis Richardson of the New York Air Guard, one of the first to arrive at the scene of the crash after scrambling in a helicopter, said the rescue attempt was frustrated by the inferno fed by the 190,000lb of jet fuel.

As dusk turned to a moonless night, emergency workers struggled in the darkness. They were helped by "midnight-sun" floodlights, night-vision goggles, flares and infrared heat-sensing radars on many of the helicopters which scrambled to the scene.

The difficulties were compounded by a summer fog and a 15-knot breeze that made the waters choppy. Yesterday the ocean was calm, allowing coastguards to recover scores of bodies, which were placed in black bags and taken to land. Among the flotsam were duffel bags, arm-rests, shoes, a wallet — and a letter written by a mother to her daughter.

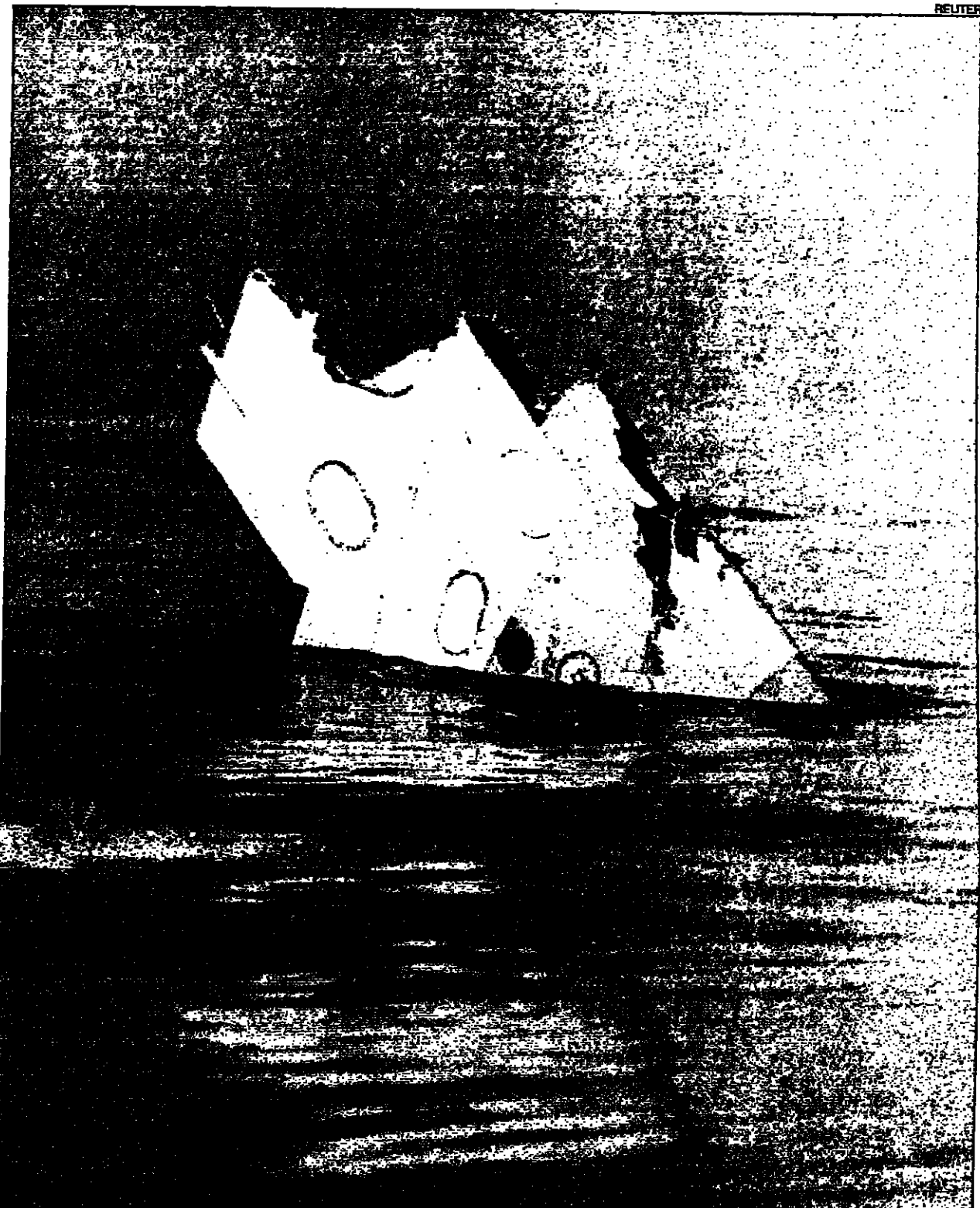
In France, a trauma centre was opened at Paris's Charles de Gaulle airport, where relatives and friends of flight 800's passengers arrived. Some had not heard of the crash. Amid pitiful scenes, a woman arrived at the airport holding a single rose which she had plucked from a vase at home. President Chirac sent his condolences to President Clinton.

Victims' families at New York's Kennedy airport were taken by bus to a hotel where they were comforted by Red Cross volunteers, priests and helpers.

The city's mayor, Rudolph Giuliani, who was a friend of

Continued on page 2, col 5

Terrorism fear, pages 2 & 3



Part of a wing of the doomed aircraft floats just south of Long Island. Witnesses told of orange fireballs in sky

Major rallies the troops with tilt at divided Labour

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

JOHN MAJOR gave Conservative MPs their battle orders last night, telling them to stop being "bystanders or commentators" and to become advocates for the party and the policies in which they passionately believed.

In an end-of-session rallying call to the 1922 Committee, the Prime Minister told MPs to take their message to the party and the country over the summer and the autumn and to ask themselves every day whether they had done something to help Tories win the election.

His call for an end to bickering was bolstered by Sir Marcus Fox, the committee's chairman. He said all MPs should take a "vow of silence" unless they had something supportive to say.

Mr Major told the Tories that he sensed the mood of the country changing and declared that Labour was unravelling. The morale of Tory MPs has been boosted by clear indications of differences at the top of the Labour leadership over the Tube strike. Last night Mr Major called on Tony Blair and John Prescott and others on the front bench to say that they condemned the strike.

Mr Major virtually confirmed to his MPs that the election will be next April or

May when he said: "Don't take a holiday next spring."

The Government signalled yesterday that it will have full final programme. The Queen's Speech for the last session has been set for October 23, far earlier than usual, and the Budget for November 26.

Mr Major told MPs that when voters said it was time for a change, they should be reminded of what they might be changing to — higher taxes, higher gas and electricity bills, reducing inward investment, and less choice in education.

He attacked Labour as being "hypocrites", claiming to be the party of shareholders and then proposing a windfall tax that would hit the value of shares, claiming to be the party of the family and then removing child benefit for 16 to 18 year olds, claiming to be the party of job creation and then backing the social chapter which would destroy jobs.

The Prime Minister also confirmed that he would block agreement in the European inter-governmental conference until it agreed to close the loophole that allowed the 48 hour week to be imposed in Britain "through the back door".

Labour split and Peter Riddell, page 11

48 children hurt as bus hits bridge

BY ADAM FRESKO

AT LEAST 48 schoolchildren were injured yesterday when the roof of their double-deck bus was ripped off when it hit a low bridge in Cheshire.

Fifteen of the children, aged between five and ten, were seriously hurt and last night some were being operated on for head injuries.

The bus was taking them home after an end-of-term trip to Waterworld in Stoke when it crashed into the concrete and iron pedestrian bridge along a busway at Mordishaw, Runcorn.

Evan Morris of Cheshire Fire Brigade said that the roof had been torn off from the front to the back just above the level of the seats. Residents from nearby houses helped to carry the children from the bus and laid them on the verge.

The bus was carrying 76 children and two teachers from Palace Fields Junior School in Runcorn.

The busway is a network of single-carriageways that encircles the town and is designated for local buses only. The crash is believed to have happened on a road set aside for single deckers.

Richard Oswald, a spokesman for the Mersey Regional Ambulance Service, said: "It was horrific. The bus had tried to go under a concrete footbridge which was too low. It simply ripped the roof clean off it."

Judge says fiend who killed Sophie must not be freed

BY KATE ALDERSON AND MICHAEL HORSNELL

THE man who raped and murdered seven-year-old Sophie Hook was given three life sentences yesterday by a judge who called for greater protection for children.

Mr Justice Curtis recommended that Howard Hughes, 31, should never be freed and asked police to send their report on the case to the Home Office. "This case seems to be a clarion call for immediate steps to be taken to improve society's protection of its children," he said.

"There seems to be nothing in the way of a statutory system which enables responsible professionals to supervise and control a man like Howard Hughes."

It emerged at the end of the 19-day trial at Chester Crown Court that the killer had been linked to a string of sex attacks on children before taking Sophie from her uncle's garden in Llandudno, Gwynedd. She disappeared while sharing a tent with her sister and two cousins after a family party. Her body was found on a nearby beach the next morning.

Hughes, known as Mad Howard in his home town of Colwyn Bay, had been under surveillance by police for 16 years and had confessed to a paedophile friend that he wanted to murder a child.

Mr Justice Curtis told him: "You are a fiend. Your crimes

are every parent's nightmare come to pass. No girl is or ever will be safe from you."

The judge then passed three life sentences, one for murder and one each on the two rape charges. Hughes had pleaded not guilty.

The sentence was greeted with applause and cheering from the public gallery. Hughes, in tears, mouthed "I didn't kill her" as he was led away.

Sophie's parents, Julie and Christopher, who have three other children, were too distressed to attend court. Danny Jones, Sophie's uncle, held his head in his hands and wept as sentence was passed.

Hughes: under police surveillance for 16 years

Deadly shadow, page 7



Chief quits

The chief executive of English Heritage resigned yesterday following a report into "alleged administrative irregularities". Chris Green's departure, with immediate effect, was announced in a brief statement. Mr Green, a former British Rail manager, earned £101,000 a year.

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A 'flare in the sky' before jet broke in two suggests Flight 800 was on fire before it exploded

Lockerbie bomb experts will sift plane wreckage

By HARVEY ELLIOT, AVIATION CORRESPONDENT, AND SHIRLEY ENGLISH

BRITISH scientists from the air accident investigation branch at Farnborough and the Ministry of Defence research department are likely to fly to Washington to help to determine whether a bomb was the cause of the TWA accident.

But witnesses say that the aircraft looked like a "flare" before it broke into two giant orange balls of fire, indicating that it may have been ablaze before it exploded.

The four Pratt and Whitney engines are supposed to withstand any failure and prevent shards of metal from rupturing fuel lines or fuel tanks. But there have been many incidents in the past when just such an "impossibility" has happened. Only last week, an engine on a Delta Airlines MD80 jet split apart and sent metal hurtling into the cabin, killing two passengers sitting alongside. It could not happen, said the manufacturers and safety experts, but it did.

A British Airtours Boeing 737 burst into flames on the runway at Manchester Airport when a combustion chamber exploded in an engine, severing fuel lines and causing an internal fire in which 35 people died. Luckily it was on the runway. It could not happen, it had been said. But it did.

The ValuJet Boeing 737 which crashed into a Florida swamp should also not have caught fire in the air. But it did. There are many other recorded incidents, some of them fatal, which have been collected on accident files which will now be studied by the investigators.

Had such incidents happened as Flight 800 climbed after take-off on its way from New York to Paris, the effect would have been almost exactly that described by witnesses — the "flare" of ignited fuel from a severed fuel line to the engine, followed by an explosion as the main fuel tanks in the wings were engulfed in the flames and another as the

INVESTIGATION

aircraft broke into two flaming pieces.

To prove that this was the cause, and not a bomb, investigators will be anxious to examine a reported brief "mayday" call made just before the aircraft disappeared from radar screens. It was so short that air traffic controllers cannot even be certain that it came from the doomed TWA jet. But, if it did, it may also contain background sounds of a fire on board. They will also want to trace each of the engines to establish whether one, or even two, broke away, such as those which caused another Boeing 747 to crash into a block of flats in Amsterdam in 1992 with the loss of four crew and 43 people on the ground.

Each time there is an accident, safety is tightened in the hope of preventing anything like it happening again. But in the first six months of this year, 609 people died in world airline accidents compared

with only 206 in the first six months of last year. The deaths occurred in 25 fatal crashes, four of which involved large passenger-carrying jets.

Inevitably, questions will be asked about the age of the TWA jet. It was built in 1971 and first delivered to Eastern before being sold to TWA. But there are hundreds of old jets flying safely around the world. British Airways alone has 15 Boeing 747-100 series which are of similar age.

Every part has been replaced several times in the carefully monitored series of maintenance checks which all commercial aircraft have to undergo. The Federal Aviation Authority has some of the toughest safety inspection regulations of all, including special modifications and more regular checks on older jets.

The age of the aircraft is, therefore, unlikely to have any direct bearing on the crash. But as an outside chance, the investigators will also be keen to find the rear pressure bulkhead to establish whether it ruptured and to study the cargo manifest to ensure that it did not contain any inflammable material.

The process of piecing together the final moments of the flight will be far more difficult than the 21-month investigation into the Lockerbie disaster, a British scientist said.

Professor Anthony Busuttill, of Edinburgh University, was a key figure in the 1988 Lockerbie investigation which first confirmed that a bomb was to blame after finding soot deposits on the airframe.

At Lockerbie, scientists managed to collect 90 per cent of the Boeing 747's scattered fuselage, which left a trail 80 miles south of the town. But the TWA wreckage is spread over "a vast area and there is movement of the water", said Professor Busuttill. "Retrieving the bodies and wreckage will be difficult."

Scots offer of helpline

THE families of Lockerbie victims yesterday set up a helpline for relatives of those killed in the American crash (Shirley English writes).

Jim Swire, of UK Families Flight 103, who lost his daughter, Flora, in the Lockerbie disaster, said: "When something like this happens it reminds you of the early days." He hoped TWA had accurate passenger records, which "was not the case at Lockerbie".

Last night the shocked Lockerbie community sent its sympathy to relatives of the American crash victims. Stephen Berry, a councillor, said: "Our thoughts are with them."



A Red Cross disaster worker at Kennedy Airport in New York supports a relative of a passenger who was on the crashed aircraft

Town mourns for 16 children on school trip

By QUENTIN LETTS
IN NEW YORK
AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

SIXTEEN pupils from a small town school died in the disaster, along with five adults who were accompanying them to France for a summer language course.

The children attended Mountourville High School, northern Pennsylvania, where yesterday fellow pupils and teachers were coming to terms with the loss. The day before they had waved goodbye to their Paris-bound friends who were members of the school's French Club.

David Black, the school's superintendent, described a sombre mood in the classrooms and corridors. "Many

of the parents have come in and we have counsellors to take care of people," he said.

The 16 children, most from rural homes, had been "bubbling with excitement" when they left for their trip, their luggage decorated with stickers of the Eiffel Tower. In their bags were French text books containing useful phrases which they practised on each other as they waited to check in at the TWA desk at Kennedy airport.

"They were exceptional kids, both academically and socially, the kind of kids you'd like to take home and make your own," said Dan Chandler, the headmaster.

The wife and niece of Wayne Shorter, the American jazz saxophonist, were also among

the victims, the organisers of the Toulon Jazz Festival said yesterday. The two women were to join Shorter, who was due to play today at the festival.

Also feared to have died in the crash were Vera Peeney, an Irish emigrant from Kilmore in Co Roscommon,

and her 17-year-old daughter Deirdre. Mrs Peeney was believed to have been travelling to Paris on the first leg of a journey home to Ireland for a summer holiday. Her husband is a TWA employee. She was understood to have left Ireland with other members of her family for a new home in

the United States around 20 years ago.

Italian officials were yesterday trying to identify 19 passengers who were thought to have been switched to the aircraft after their TWA New York-Rome flight was cancelled because of a crew shortage.

They were to have been joined by Domenico Consales, 66, of White Oak, Pennsylvania, but because he arrived several hours early at Kennedy Airport he was switched to a third flight which arrived at Rome yesterday morning.

An airline spokesman said last night that all passengers had been identified. "We are now contacting all the families of the victims," he said. It is believed that between

40 and 70 of the passengers were French. The tragedy triggered the use of the 30 counsellors and crisis managers who are on call around the clock at Charles de Gaulle Airport. TWA set up a crisis centre for relatives of passengers at Leonardo Da Vinci Airport outside Rome.

As the Queen and John Major joined other world leaders in sending messages of sympathy to the White House, President Clinton moved swiftly to calm America's fears about terrorist attacks in the wake of the explosion, which came just hours before the opening of the Olympic Games in Atlanta, Georgia.

Mr Clinton said: "We do not know what caused this tragedy."

'You could see balls of flame, then everything disappeared'

By QUENTIN LETTS
AND MICHAEL KALLENBACH

RESIDENTS of the Hamptons, the fashionable Long Island enclave, were barbecuing supper in their gardens and strolling on the beach, awaiting sunset, when they saw a flash of light and looked up to see TWA Flight 800's fiery descent to the waters of Moriches Inlet.

Mike Culligan, from Westhampton, said: "At first it was like a fireworks display. The plane jaggedly exploded all sorts of debris across the sky. I waited, expecting to hear a sonic boom. Fifteen seconds later came a low rumble, followed by the sight of black smoke."

Marie Murray, from East Moriches, said: "I heard a very loud boom, followed by another. I was on the phone to a friend at the time and said, 'God, did you hear that?' My whole house shook. I saw a cluster of red."

Roland Penney and his son Randy were near the beach when they saw the crash. They immediately jumped into their boat and hurried to the site, finding debris floating on the surface. "Horrible, horrible," said Mr Penney Sr, who steered his boat as near as he dared to the Boeing 747's burning jet fuel.

"We were looking for survivors and hoped to find someone holding on to a lifejacket."



New Jersey police bring crash victims' bodies ashore

We found two people, who were dead, still strapped into their seats. There were no burn marks on the people we saw." Other reports, however, spoke of bodies being badly burned.

Victor Fehner, 47, who was in the shallows on his 17th dinghy, said: "It looked like the wing came off. You could see two balls of flame, then everything disappeared."

Jackie Marlow, who had just been fishing, said: "There was a great fire. Eventually the plane just spread apart and there was a loud thump. I felt the tremor when it hit the water."

Jim Ahrens, a barman at

John Scott's Raw Bar, near Westhampton Beach, said: "It was this comet-like explosion in the sky. There was a column of fire all the way to the water, straight down."

June O'Reilly, a dentist living in Amagansett, on the tip of eastern Long Island, was driving home from Manhattan along the Long Island Expressway, when "I suddenly saw this golden glow in the air. It looked like a firebomb in the sky."

She immediately turned to a local radio station. "I had hoped it was a mechanical failure," she said. "But my gut reaction tells me something else."

Dr O'Reilly, who travels to Paris regularly — she was last there in April to run in the marathon — said that only last weekend she had been at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington where she viewed a new exhibition on TWA and its role in aviation history.

Dawn Davis, who is the bookkeeper at Larry's Crab House in East Moriches on Long Island, said: "The streets are closed, and the Coast Guard, which is next door to where I work, is only allowing the media back."

Dan Pulick, 22, a maintenance worker, was driving to meet some friends in Westhampton Beach when suddenly he saw what he described as "a little ball in the sky over my head. I wasn't sure what I was witnessing. I thought it was coming down pretty quickly. Then a third of the way before the ocean, it exploded and there was this huge ball of fire."

"I have never seen anything this big before. It gained speed as it exploded. I was 500 yards from the beach, and in my car I could feel the explosion. It must have shaken everything around me for miles."

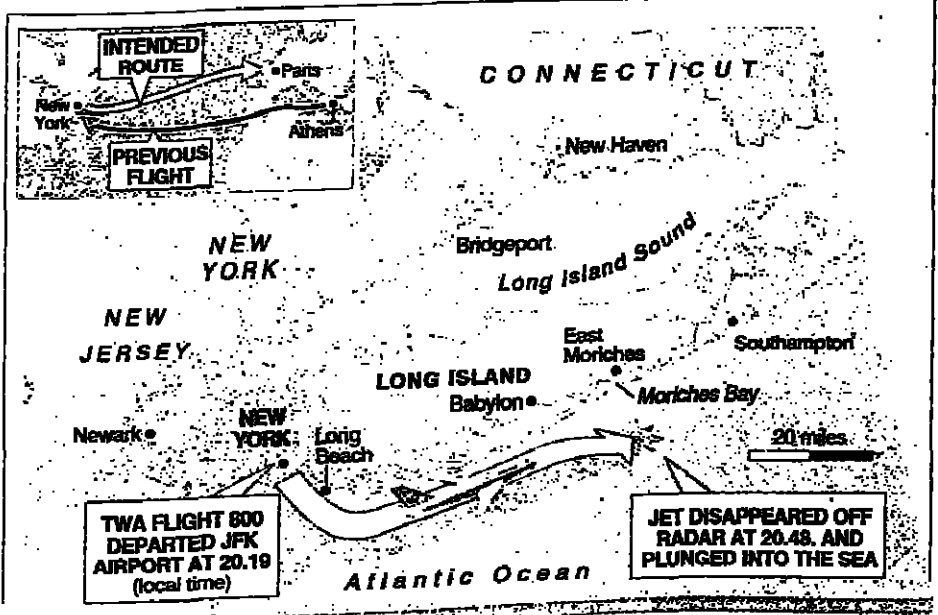
Mr Pulick and a friend went to view what had happened from the top of a nearby building with a pair of binoculars. "I drove down to the scene soon after that, and with all the helicopters I realised there was nothing I could do."

HIV-infected blood aboard

Moriches, New York: Rescue crews searching for survivors are keeping a lookout for an eight-litre container of blood contaminated with HIV, the virus that causes Aids, according to the US Coast Guard.

Dr Alfred Saah of the Johns Hopkins Medical Institution said the risk of rescue workers becoming contaminated was close to nil. He added that if the container broke on impact the risks were even less because the blood would be diluted in the ocean and that the virus could not survive.

The Coast Guard did not say why the blood was being carried on the flight. (AFP)



Meet Vanessa.



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Hogging the limelight: a bad afternoon with Ann and Nick

Mr Nicholas Winterton is the Conservative MP for a Cheshire seat, Macclesfield. Mrs Ann Winterton represents a neighbouring constituency, Congleton. She, too, is a Tory. The couple are married.

Nicholas (if we may be so familiar) sits on the front bench below the gangway. Ann (if she will permit us) sits a couple of rows behind him. As a duo, they bring to the Commons a sort of Gothic version of the former daytime TV show, *Good Morning*

with Anne and Nick, in which their guests are tortured until they surrender, beg for mercy, or weep.

Both were in their places for Agriculture Questions yesterday. Both wanted to ask about farming. They were not quite close enough to share a sofa, but ideologically they do.

Their special guest for the afternoon was the Agriculture Minister, Douglas Hogg. But unlike the other Anne and Nick, this Anne and Nick were not there to put their interviewee at his ease. Poor Mr

Hogg had been knocked about a bit before he joined the couple, and subjected to jeers from much of his audience — the opposition side — from the start. There was no orange juice, no curtains, no pastel colours and no plants. Just Betty Boothroyd, looking grim, and a couple of uniformed men from the Sergeant at Arms department.

Anne and Nick would invite their guests to sit down. Ann and Nick made theirs stand up, facing in the wrong direction and obliged to crane



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

round to answer. In went Nick, first, with the knee and boot he is the hard man of the duo. He chose BSE and the European Court as his stick with which to beat Hogg, and began to shout.

Nothing is ever understated with this Nick. Every word, every "it", "an" or even "the" is belted out. "Is this not an

AFFRONT to the SOVEREIGNTY and INTEGRITY of this PARLIAMENT? Does my Rt Hon friend not agree with ME that the EUROPEAN COURT is a court of VESTED INTERESTS?"

Mr Hogg, turning on the spit, begged leave to express himself in more moderate terms, as the audience jeered.

And now it was Ann's turn. She is less brutal in her style — the soft cop: chillingly courteous at all times.

She chose the Common Agricultural Policy with which to abuse her guest: a cruel little inquiry about the relative sizes of agricultural holdings. Herr Fischer, and the British disadvantage. Ann said "Herr Fischer" with special menace.

"Quite right!" shouted Nick, as Ann finished her question, further discomfiting their guest, who stammered out (to

what Ann and Nick knew was an impossible question) the best reply he could. More jeers. Then the couple released their interviewee to the audience, their work done.

Watching Hogg's subsequent torments, Nick looked relaxed — sunk onto his bench with a jovial brutality.

Ann pursed her lips a little and watched tensely, like a bird of prey. Neither of them smiled.

Readers who have ever heard *The Jamesons* on BBC

Radio 2 will understand this sketch's proposal that, beyond daytime TV, the Members for Macclesfield and Congleton might like to do a hard-core radio show, *The Wintertons*, later at night. Unlike Derek and Ellen Jameson, who only tease, Nick and Ann might aim to get their guests to cry, live and on air.

But they had better get their bid in fast. For the day is coming when, for sheer, creepy, flesh-tingling horror, *The Blairs* will out-chill every rival.

Lilley asks for tenders to operate child benefit

By DOMINIC KENNEDY
SOCIAL AFFAIRS
CORRESPONDENT

THE handover of 1,800 civil servants to a private company, the first step in privatising the Department of Social Security, will be announced by Peter Lilley today. The minister will invite tenders for the administration of child benefit, paid to the mothers of 13 million school-age children from offices at Washington, Tyne and Wear.

Mr Lilley is expected to announce further privatisations of benefit payments, transferring the bulk of the 68,000 employees of the Benefits Agency into private hands. His department could eventually be reduced to a small staff drawing up contracts and checking that the terms are properly met.

Child benefit has been chosen to lead the way because it is the easiest to administer, being paid without means tests or the provision of much information beyond the existence of a baby.

From next April, private firms will be able to tender to provide a wide variety of services to the department. They will have the opportunity to work for the Benefits Agency, which pays and administers social security benefits, the Contributions Agency, which manages National Insurance, and the Child Support Agency, which deals with maintenance payments.

Mr Lilley hopes to achieve a cut of 25 per cent from the £3 billion-a-year administration budget.

MPs accuse Birt of acting like tsar on World Service

By JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

MPs yesterday attacked John Birt, the Director-General of the BBC, over his planned reforms of the World Service. They accused Mr Birt of being dictatorial, arrogant and running the BBC like "a kind of tsar". One MP said he was not confident that the World Service was in safe hands and another urged Mr Birt to halt the reforms.

The criticism came as Mr Birt gave evidence to the Commons Foreign Affairs Committee after widespread public criticism of his reforms. In June Mr Birt announced plans to merge the news operations of the World Service and the domestic BBC.

While Mr Birt says it would save money and improve the service, critics say it would risk the World Service's international reputation.

Such is the feeling in Westminster that 238 MPs from all parties have signed a Commons motion expressing concern. It urges Mr Birt and the BBC governors to "guarantee that the distinctive nature of the World Service programming with its unrivalled reputation for impartiality will not be impaired by any organisational changes".

Mr Birt was repeatedly questioned yesterday about the secrecy surrounding the decisions.

MPs asked why Sam Younger, managing director of the World Service, and Bob Phillips, deputy Director-General of the BBC, were told about the reforms only just before they were made public.

Both Mr Birt's deputies,

who were also at the committee, repeatedly evaded questions about how they felt when being presented with the reforms as a fait accompli.

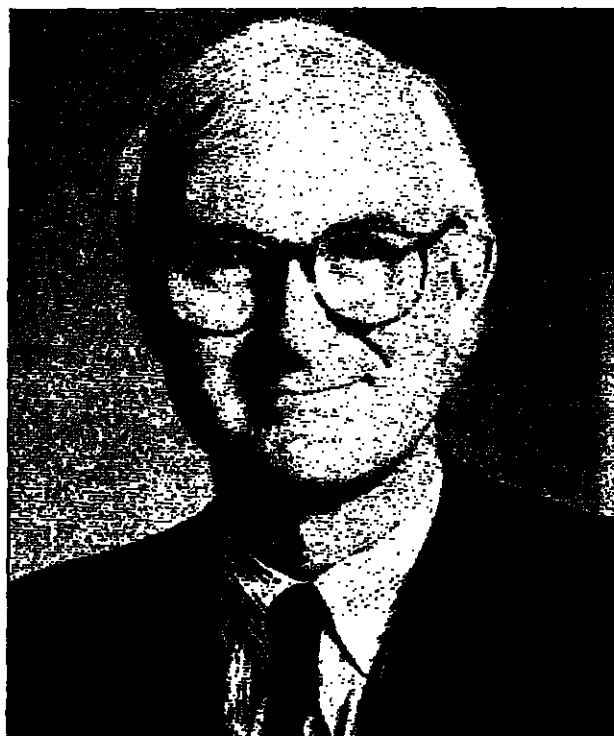
Mr Younger eventually admitted that he had been "shocked" but was now convinced that the plans would benefit the World Service. Mr Phillips, pressed four times, finally admitted he had been "surprised" by some of the detail. He said: "It is the Director-General's right to decide what is appropriate."

Robert Wareing, Labour MP for Liverpool West Derby, said he was astonished that Mr Birt had not told senior managers about his reforms until a day before they were announced. "Don't you think that was a dereliction of duty?" he asked. "You seem not to be acting like the Director-General but like a kind of tsar."

Michael Jopling, the former Tory Chief Whip, said no one on the committee understood why Mr Birt thought that it was "inappropriate" for the reforms to be discussed by his senior staff. Mr Birt said he had met and consulted more staff than any other BBC Director-General.

David Sumberg, Tory MP for Bury South, said Mr Birt gave him "no confidence that the future of the World Service is in safe hands".

Dennis Canavan, Labour MP for Falkirk West, said: "If it ain't broke, don't fix it. Why are you interfering in something that has such a major reputation and track record?" Mr Birt replied: "Because we want to make it better."



John Birt: faced questioning on World Service

Mike Gapes, Labour MP for Ilford South, pressed Mr Birt over the different production costs between the BBC's domestic news service and the World Service. Mr Birt admitted the exact figures were difficult to determine and that no one really knew them.

Mr Gapes urged Mr Birt to carry out further investigations into cost differences. "Wouldn't it be sensible now to stop your reorganisation until that has been done?"

Mr Birt said he and the BBC governors had the statutory right to decide the principles of

any major strategic and structural change to the BBC.

"The scale of the changes were such that we agreed that consultation would not be proper in these circumstances." But he added that the way these changes were implemented would be open to full consultation.

He said: "I am as passionate about the World Service as anybody who has written about it in recent days. It is inherently ridiculous to suggest that I would want to do anything other than good for the World Service."

Suspected device is detonated in Dublin

By AUDREY MAGEE
AND NICHOLAS WATT

ARMY bomb disposal experts in Dublin carried out a controlled explosion last night after suspected loyalist terrorists claimed they had planted a bomb in the city centre.

The Irish police said last night that no device had been found after the controlled explosion, at about 6pm, in a skip outside a store near O'Connell Street. At 12.25pm a man claiming to be from the Ulster Freedom Fighters telephoned the BBC in Belfast and, using a recognised code word, gave a warning that a bomb had been planted in the street. The UFF is a cover name for the terrorist Ulster Defence Association.

Police evacuated the street and searched shops and businesses for several hours before concentrating on the skip.

There were fears last night that the UFF might have made the call without planting a device, to cause alarm.

Loyalist political leaders had given warning last weekend that the terrorists' ceasefire was close to breaking-point in the wake of Sunday's republican bomb attack in Enniskillen.

In the Commons yesterday, John Major, responding to concerns expressed by Tony Blair, urged political leaders to speed up moves towards substantive inter-party discussions on Northern Ireland. Mr Major pleaded with the parties to put aside the hostility of recent weeks and pressed for improvement on the "inadequate" progress in the talks.

He made clear that ministers were not prepared to postpone the multi-party talks despite the calls of some MPs for a "cooling off" period. He also played down suggestions of a deep rift with John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister. Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, and Dick Spring, the Irish Foreign Minister, met in London to discuss ways of improving security in advance of next month's loyalist marches in Northern Ireland.

Portillo's defence budget faces cuts

By JILL SHERMAN

FURTHER cuts in Michael Portillo's defence budget were forecast last night as the Cabinet agreed a provisional £268 billion spending ceiling for next year.

New delays over orders worth more than £4 billion, including the £2 billion replacement for Nimrod maritime patrol aircraft, sparked fears that Kenneth Clarke is set on clawing back money on defence. One option being canvassed is the cancellation of the entire £800 million anti-armour weapon programme.

Sources close to the Chancellor last night emphasised that the defence budget would not be protected, despite assurances by John Major.

"The only protected departments are health, education and law and order," one source said. "That does not mean they will get all they want but they will not be cut." Cabinet ministers agreed yesterday to a freeze on the £80 billion public sector pay bill and a bid to trim the £268 billion ceiling by up to £5 billion. Downing Street officials said that the £268 billion figure was an "upper limit", not a target.

At the meeting Mr Clarke warned colleagues that tough decisions would have to be taken to leave some scope for tax cuts. The key pressure points during this year's public expenditure round will be social security, education and transport, as well as defence.

Navy orders assault ships

The Royal Navy has ordered two amphibious assault ships, HMS Bulwark and HMS Albion, which will enter service in the next decade.

The £450 million contract is almost a year late because of protracted talks with the ship-builder VSEL of Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria. The two existing amphibious assault ships, HMS Fearless and the mothballed HMS Intrepid, are 30 years old.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Welsh attack on Princess

Five Labour MPs have tabled a Commons motion expressing sadness that the Princess of Wales has severed all links with the Principality. Six Welsh charities were among nearly 100 from which she resigned as patron this week. Paul Flynn, MP for Newport West, who says the Princess should renounce her title, said people were baffled that she wished to retain "of Wales" but sever her links.

Painting export delay

The Getty Museum in California has protested at the Government's decision to hold up by a month an export licence application for a £3.5 million Guercino painting, the third extension in six months. Last Monday was meant to be the deadline for an export application for *Erminio finding the wounded Tancredi*. It is believed that the National Galleries of Scotland are negotiating to buy the work.

Solicitors to vote on split

Solicitors in England and Wales are to be balloted over whether their professional body, the Law Society, should be split up. The society's annual meeting mustered the required 20 votes for a postal ballot of the whole profession to see if there is support for separating its regulatory and trade union functions, along the lines of the General Medical Council and the British Medical Association.

Farmer fined for fraud

A former county chairman of the National Farmers' Union has been fined £3,600 for falsifying claims for European Union cattle subsidies. Martin Mann-Healey, 52, was also ordered by Nottingham magistrates to pay legal costs of £5,000 and to compensate the Ministry of Agriculture for more than £800. The accused, of Nuneaton, admitted three charges of dishonestly applying for subsidies.

Air-show plane crashes

Three people were in hospital last night after a rare Bristol Freighter aircraft crashed after an aborted take-off from Enstone, near Oxford, on the way to an air show. All seven passengers and crew were rescued from the wreckage of the 15-seater plane, which fell 50ft. Built in the 1960s to carry cars on Channel routes, it had been booked to appear at an airshow in Filton, near Bristol.

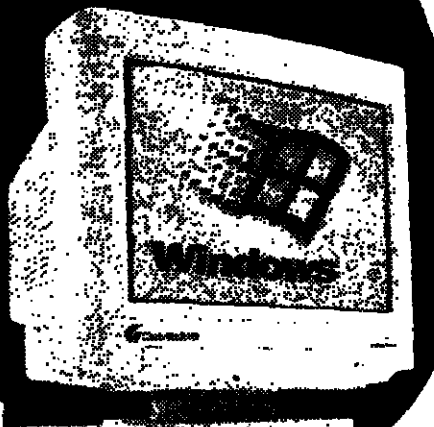
Second lottery draw

Camelot, the operator of the National Lottery, is planning a second weekly draw in the autumn. The plan, which has been submitted to the regulator Oflot, is likely to involve a draw on Wednesday evenings, with smaller jackpots as prize money is split between the two draws. The scheme could boost Camelot's takings by 25 per cent.

Snail rescue obstructed

Police arrested eight protesters yesterday for obstructing work on the removal of rare snails from the route of the Newbury bypass. About 40 demonstrators confronted police with an 8ft snail effigy. Engineers had been digging up sedge and turf for wildlife experts to create a habitat on the River Kennet for the colony of Desmoulin's whorl.

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At the meeting Mr Clarke warned colleagues that tough decisions would have to be taken to leave some scope for tax cuts. The key pressure points during this year's public expenditure round will be social security, education and transport, as well as defence.

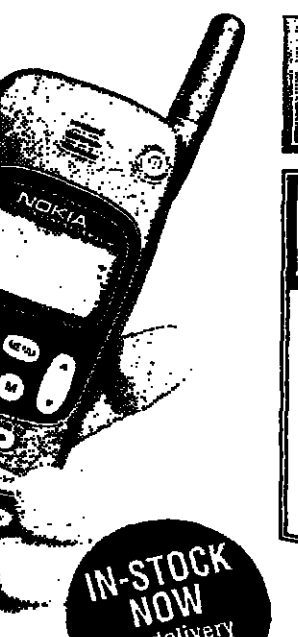
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Benefactor
to pay
farm work

Botham re-elected
Imran's office
letter of regret

Woman attacked
at tennis centre

Benefactor offers to pay off evicted farm woman's debt

By PAUL WILKINSON

A WOMAN evicted from the remote farm her family has occupied for 500 years could be back home next week.

Freda Fentris-Elterby had to leave her 64-acre estate high on the North Yorkshire moors on Tuesday because of a long-running dispute over her brother George's will. His half share of Forest Lodge Farm, worth about £80,000, was left to outsiders who pressed for the cash.

Press coverage sparked a wave of public sympathy and yesterday Miss Fentris-Elterby's solicitor announced that an anonymous benefactor had offered to buy out the claim of the beneficiaries. James Scott said his 63-year-old client was overwhelmed by the offer. "The investor has indicated that he is prepared to allow Freda to remain on the farm."

Miss Fentris-Elterby has spent all her life on the farm in Danby Dale. She has lived alone since her brother's death in 1989, except for the company of her 68 cattle, two dogs,

17 cats, 20 chickens and a gander called Sid. The farmhouse, parts of which date from the 15th century, has neither electricity nor running water.

Negotiations to allow her to stay on the land, with the collection of animals she regards as friends, finally broke down last week and the bailiffs moved in.

Mr Scott said: "We have to move quickly because the repossession took control of Freda's animals and will sell them off, because it is so expensive to look after them all. She is moved by the offer and the support and generosity she has received from members of the public. I do not think she has ever doubted she would return."

Reports and pictures of her distress at being forced out of her home and of her apparent inability to come to terms with urban life in her cousin's bungalow in Whitby, stirred anger and sympathy among the public.

The residents of nearby

Castleton set up the pressure group Reform — Restore Freda's Ownership Rights Movement — and launched a fund at the National Westminster Bank. There were offers of £30,000 each from Yorkshiremen living in London and Plymouth.

Then an American offered up to £100,000 after reading the story on his arrival in London. Mr Scott declined to say if he was the anonymous helper.

However, he did say that the appeal fund had been inundated with cash gifts. Miss Fentris-Elterby's benefactor was happy for her to keep all the donations she received if she wished to do so. "The donations will enable her to continue to feed her cattle next year. They may also permit her to employ someone to help her through the difficult winter times."

Mr Scott said that if the appeal fund raised enough to buy back the benefactor's half of the farm from the estate, then he would gladly sell it to



Freda Fentris-Elterby hopes that next week she will be back with her animals at Forest Lodge Farm, from which she was evicted by bailiffs

her with no added interest.

The dispute over the farm arose after George Fentris-Elterby bequeathed his share to three friends and two hospitals in the Teesside area that treated him during his last days. The hospitals were not pressing for their share in the proceeds of the sale, and two of the friends were dead, but

their beneficiaries and the third friend still wanted their money.

Miss Fentris-Elterby said after hearing of the offer: "I would like to be back there today. The news is great. I thought the original decision to evict me was wicked and should never have happened. Now I want to resume a quiet

life on the farm and never hope to see another solicitor or bailiff again."

Among the many offers of help was £100 from a local charity in the Esk Valley. The trustees voted the money at a hurriedly-arranged meeting yesterday. Part of it will be spent on new clothes for Miss Fentris-Elterby, who is still

wearing the same outfit, apart from a borrowed pair of slippers, that she had on when the bailiffs ordered her to leave.

She came close to breaking down with emotion as she talked about the tide of kindness that has flowed in from well-wishers. "I am ever so grateful. People have been so

kind. I am overwhelmed. I know I will never be able to thank them enough."

Last night she was re-united with her two closest companions, her sheepdogs Judy and Rona. Friends who had been looking after them in the farmyard at Danby Dale felt that they were best back with their mistress.

Botham rejected Imran's offer of letter of regret

By JOANNA BALE

IAN BOTHAM told the High Court yesterday that he had rejected Imran Khan's proposal to settle their dispute with an open letter to *The Times* because he did not regard it as an apology.

As the finishing flourish in his three-day cross-examination, the letter was read by George Carman, QC, to the court. In it, Imran stated that he had never called Botham or Allan Lamb, whom he regarded as "true sportsmen", racist or cheats, and that his comments had been misquoted.

Botham is suing Imran for libel over an article in *The Sun* in which he said that illegal ball-tampering was common among fast bowlers. Botham and Lamb are also suing over an article in *India Today* magazine in which Imran allegedly accused them of racism, of being uneducated and of lacking class and upbringing.

The apology, intended for publication two months after the article in *The Sun* in 1994, went on to offer his regret if any party or their family had been caused distress. It also called for the laws on ball-tampering to be clarified.

Mr Carman turned to Botham and asked him why he had not accepted it.

CARMAN: In the interests of the great game of cricket and

in the interests of avoiding some kind of blood battle in these courts and in the interests of good relations between the Pakistan cricketing team and the English team, did you not think that that was a fair and reasonable proposal which you might accept?

BOTHAM: No sir, I did not. CARMAN: Did you not think the letter was written in a spirit of good faith?

BOTHAM: No sir, I do not. I think it's another smoke-screen. I do not think that is an apology, which is all I asked for.

Mr Carman then asked Botham about his anger at comments made by Imran in a review of Botham's autobiography, in which he wished Kathy Botham "all the luck for the remainder of her marriage".

CARMAN: You see it as even more evidence of malice against you by Imran?

BOTHAM: Yes.

Cross-examining Lamb, Mr Carman referred to the article in *India Today*, saying that Imran had written that he had been distressed that such a view had been attributed to him. He had never called Lamb a racist.

CARMAN: What is wrong with that?

LAMB: What is wrong is he said never but he did.

CARMAN: But the article was not written by Imran Khan. It purports to be extracts from an interview by Imran Khan. You know he was saying he had been misquoted.

LAMB: I don't know whether he was misquoted. It was in black and white.

CARMAN: Mr Khan was denying he called you a racist and he had been misquoted. You realise that don't you?

LAMB: If you were called a racist you would be upset too.

He said that as someone who had left South Africa because he hated apartheid and wished to play international cricket he had been "upset and saddened" by the article. The case continues.



Lamb said he was upset at being called racist

Woman attacked at tennis contest

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

SOME of the world's most promising tennis players were being questioned by police yesterday after a violent sex attack on a female member of the Essex club where they have been competing in an international tournament.

The 41-year-old woman was attacked as she left Frinton-on-Sea Lawn Tennis Club, where she had been drinking in the bar with friends on Wednesday night. As she reached the foyer she was dragged into a dark corner, beaten, robbed and sexually assaulted.

Police believe the attack might have been motivated by revenge after the woman had remonstrated with two youths for throwing drink cans around the club's bar.

The 22-court club is playing host to 300 young players from

all over the world competing in the Frinton Satellite tournament for women and the Reebok Open Tennis Week for men. Visitors and members were questioned yesterday.

Detective Chief Inspector Terry Gardiner, from Clacton police, said the woman's injuries were appalling. "She could not even walk afterwards. She crawled 30 yards into the lighted area before anyone saw her. It was one of the worst cases I have seen."

The victim was taken to Colchester General Hospital and released after treatment, but readmitted yesterday when she realised she had a broken jaw. "She is in a very, very distraught state," Mr Gardiner added.

The attackers are described as white and aged about 18.

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RAF pilot cleared over low-flying death

By RICHARD DUCE

AN RAF pilot whose low-flying aircraft struck and killed a soldier, allegedly in a game of "chicken", was acquitted of manslaughter yesterday.

The jury at Bristol Crown Court took more than three hours to clear Squadron Leader Michael Morison, 42, who looked stunned by the unanimous verdict at the end of a 14-day trial.

Private Christopher Game, 21, was killed when he was hit by the squadron leader's Hercules transport plane as it made a low-level inspection pass at South Cerney military airfield near Cirencester, Gloucestershire, in an air-drop exercise on August 4, 1994. The soldier was standing on the cab of his recovery truck when he was struck by the open rear cargo door of the aircraft, which was said to be travelling at 12ft to 14ft from the ground.

During the trial the prosecution alleged that the pilot had been involved in a game of "chicken", buzzing ground crew for "a bit of fun". It was claimed that the private was a willing participant in

the game. Squadron Leader Morison, a pilot with 20 years' experience, denied that he regularly flew dangerously low and described the "chicken" allegations as "absolute rubbish". He said that on the inspection run the aircraft radio altimeter had failed at 70ft. He said he levelled out but through a misjudgment descended lower than he intended.

After the trial, Private Game's father said he was devastated by the verdict and felt cheated. Ray Game, 48, who runs a fish and chip shop in Bournemouth, said: "I think there was an RAF cover-



Morison: flew at 14ft

up. There is no justice." He understood that since his son's accident, no inspection runs had been made at less than 250ft.

"We will get no compensation for the loss of our son because he was over 21 and self-dependent. The fact that I have lost all those years with him doesn't seem to matter."

Squadron Leader Morison's solicitor, Martyn Stacey, said in a statement: "My client is very relieved that the case is over. It has been a long and difficult two years for him and his family. My client's sympathy goes out to the family of Private Game, who have also had a difficult two years."

A spokesman for the Defence Ministry said the officer's future in the RAF was under consideration. "What will happen to him finally is now a matter for the RAF. We will reconvene the military board of inquiry, which was put on hold during the criminal investigation and trial, so that lessons can be learnt."

"He will not face a court martial for the same offence, but I will not speculate about the board's findings or his future."

WPC dog handler loses sex bias claim

By STEPHEN FARRELL

A WOMAN who claimed her police career was ruined by a hopeless dog yesterday lost her claim for sexual discrimination. Former WPC Elizabeth Fletcher based her case on "gossip and innuendo", an industrial tribunal ruled.

Mrs Fletcher, 43, accused PC David Brown and other male instructors of deliberately giving her a German shepherd dog, Beau, which they knew was not up to the job.

She retired through ill-health after twice failing her health after training and on active duty with a dog section, of which she was the only woman among 32 officers. But she and the dog passed the 13-week training course, the tribunal in Nottingham was told.

John Threlfall, the tribunal chairman, dismissed Mrs Fletcher's claim for compensation and ordered her to pay £250 costs to PC Brown and £250 to Nottinghamshire police. "Mrs Fletcher's case has been devoid of facts and it is based on gossip and innuendo," he said.



Elizabeth Fletcher after the tribunal ruling yesterday

Victim of beating in police van awarded £125,000

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

A MAN who suffered multiple injuries after being assaulted by police officers won £125,000 yesterday. The payment to Trevor Gerald, 36, is the latest in a series of six-figure awards against the Metropolitan Police which are causing concern among the force's most senior officers.

Mr Gerald, a telecommunications engineer from Hayes, west London, won £25,000 compensation for assault, false imprisonment and malicious prosecution, and £100,000 exemplary damages. Mr Gerald, who was trying to get more police in his district to combat drug problems, was assaulted after being arrested by police during an anti-drugs operation on the Mozart estate in Queen's Park, west London, where he lived six years ago. He had written to his MP, Sir John Wheeler, expressing his concern at drug problems.

He was put in a headlock in the back of a van by four police constables and repeatedly punched. Officers hit him in the eyes, making the bloodvessels burst, and drag-

ged him into the police station where he was strip-searched while covered in blood.

He was admitted to hospital where X-rays revealed three fractured bones in his foot. Mr Gerald also sustained two black eyes, heavy bruising and bleeding to his cheeks, forehead and nose, and part of his lip was sliced off.

Mr Gerald, who has no previous convictions, was convicted at Marylebone Magistrates' Court of assaulting two officers, but in May 1991 the conviction was overturned on appeal.

The Metropolitan Police lodged an appeal against yesterday's award at Central London county court and the judge ordered that Mr Gerald be given only £75,000 pending the hearing.

In other recent awards, Daniel Goswell was awarded a record £302,000. Kenneth Hsu, a hairdresser, received £220,000. Andrew Kownacki £108,750 and Terence Winyard £109,000. In 1995 Scotland Yard paid out £15 million in damages.

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RATES AND APR SHOWN ARE FOR RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGES UP TO 75% OF THE VALUE OF THE PROPERTY OR ITS PURCHASE PRICE (WHICHEVER IS THE LOWER). APR QUOTED IS FOR MORTGAGES ON AN INTEREST ONLY BASIS. ALTHOUGH THE SOCIETY'S DOUBLE DEAL MORTGAGE IS ALSO AVAILABLE ON A REPAYMENT BASIS THE APR AND THE TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE WOULD BE CALCULATED ON THE BASIS THAT THE DISCOUNTED RATE WILL APPLY THROUGHOUT THE TERM OF THE MORTGAGE. IN PRACTICE HOWEVER AT THE END OF THE FIXED RATE PERIOD THE SOCIETY'S BASIC VARIABLE RATE (CURRENTLY 5.99% CASHABLE) WILL BE CHARGED IF YOUR MORTGAGE IS REPAYED EARLY, IN WHOLE OR PART. A FEE AT THE SOCIETY'S VARIABLE BASIC RATE ON THE AMOUNT REPAYED MAY BE CHARGED UNLESS YOU HAVE RECEIVED AN OFFER OF ADVANCE. THE SOCIETY RELEASES THE FUND TO REINSTATE THIS MORTGAGE OFFER WITHOUT ANY PRIOR NOTICE. FULL DETAILS ABOUT THE MORTGAGE ARE AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL BRANCH. YOUR HOME IS SECURED BY THE MORTGAGE AND MUST BE ADVERSELY IMPAIRED (LOANS ARE SUBJECT TO STATUS AND VALUATION AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PEOPLE AGED 18 OR OVER WHOSE CREDIT RATING IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST FOR INTEREST ONLY MORTGAGES. AN APPROPRIATE PERSONAL CREDIT PLAN (PEP) PERSON PLAN OR FUNDAMENTAL POLICY FOR THE AMOUNT AND TERM OF THE LOAN MUST ALSO BE ARRANGED (CONTRIBUTIONS/PREMIUMS WILL BE PAYABLE TO THE COMPANY INVOLVED FOR LOANS EXCEEDING 75% OF THE PURCHASE PRICE OR VALUATION (WHICHEVER IS THE LOWER). A HIGH PERCENTAGE LOAN FEE WILL BE CHARGED. DETAILS OF THIS FEE ARE AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL BRANCH. MORTGAGES ARE RESPECTED TO APR 1996 IN THE CASE OF SALE ENHANCED APPLICATIONS OR THE PURCHASE PRICE/VALUATION (WHICHEVER IS THE LOWER). THE APR QUOTED MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE, IF YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES DIFFER FROM THE ASSUMPTIONS ON WHICH THE EXAMPLE IS BASED. RATES AND INFORMATION ARE CORRECT AS AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS. IN THE FOLLOWING EXAMPLE "NO TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE INCLUDES VALUATION CHARGE OF £150 OR HIGH PERCENTAGE LOAN FEE OF 2% OF SOCIETY'S MORTGAGE".

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

CHARGE OF £150 OR, OTHER PRODUCTION CHARGE £150 AND £100 REDEMPTION & STAMPING CHARGE. EXAMPLE - £250,000 SECURED UNTIL 1/7/97 ON AN INTEREST ONLY LOAN FOR 25 YEARS ON A PROPERTY VALUED AT £250,000 AT AN INTEREST RATE OF 4.4% (ADJUSTED WITH THE FIRST MONTHLY INTEREST ONLY PAYMENT OF £1,100 (GROSS) INCLUDING NO ACCOUNT INTEREST). FOLLOWED BY REPAYMENTS OF £482.15 (GROSS) (20% AT 5.99% TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE IS £24,285.00). AFTER THE DISCOUNT PERIOD FINISHES (RATES OF 5.99% UNTIL 1/7/97) YOU MUST REPAY EACH ALL OF PART OF YOUR MORTGAGE BEFORE 1/7/98. A REPAYMENT FEE WILL BE PAYABLE AT THE SOCIETY'S BASIC VARIABLE RATE. THIS WILL BE CHARGED AT A MONTHLY SHARE INTEREST OF UNTIL 1/7/98 AND 1 MONTHLY SHARE INTEREST OF UNTIL 1/7/98. THE REPAYMENT FEE WILL BE £1,100 (GROSS) (20% AT 5.99% TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE IS £24,285.00). AFTER THE DISCOUNT PERIOD FINISHES (RATES OF 5.99% UNTIL 1/7/97) YOU MUST REPAY EACH ALL OF PART OF YOUR MORTGAGE BEFORE 1/7/98. 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Giant of a man was as big a concern to his family as those he had frightened since his schooldays

Wild, unkempt figure who cast a deadly shadow

By KATE ALDERSON

WHEN Howard Hughes was arrested for Sophie Hook's murder, many in the tight-knit community of Colwyn Bay were in no way surprised.

The 6ft 8in figure was a familiar sight to residents of the North Wales seaside resort, hurtling about on his mountain bike in his scruffy denim at all hours, his hair unwashed and greasy, his rotweiler dog Bryn often at his side — a malevolent presence amid the carefree holiday atmosphere.

Young girls were nervous of walking home alone and Hughes regularly frightened children on the sea front. He had convictions for petty theft and his closest adult friend, Michael Guidi, was a convicted paedophile. But despite complaints from local people and years of observing Hughes, there was little Llandudno police could do.

Hughes was as big a concern to his respectable family as to others. His father Gerald Hughes is an engineer and a prosperous and respected businessman who runs a family contracting and quarrying firm. Howard and his older sisters Karen, Laura and Heather lacked for nothing.

When Howard was born on June 9, 1965, Mr Hughes and his wife Rene were delighted at the arrival of a son. But it soon became clear that all was not well with the boy. He was very tall, reaching 6ft by the age of 11, and doctors diagnosed a chromosomal abnormality called XYY syndrome. He was slow educationally, his progress hampered by dyslexia, but according to a medical report by Gwynedd Health Authority he was not assessed as mentally ill or subnormal.

He was referred to child counsellors for difficult behaviour. Mr Hughes said: "He was emotionally insecure and abhorred of criticism." His father paid for him to attend a succession of private schools. When one of them, the now

THE MURDERER

defunct Lindsfarne College at Ruabon, near Wrexham, rejected him without explanation after two terms in desperation Mr Hughes offered the headmaster double the normal fees to keep him on, but was turned down.

One of his contemporaries said: "He was always in fights with people much older than him. Everyone was terrified of him. He was a weirdo — but he wasn't a loner. He always had an entourage of lads around him who were probably terrified of him."

"He was always killing things such as small animals and birds, and he always used to carry a big knife around. From what I heard, his parents were terrified of him as well."

When Hughes was 16 he was sent to St Andrew's Hospital, Northampton, under a Mental Health Act order that Gerald Hughes felt obliged to sign. While he was away, Mr and Mrs Hughes's 26-year marriage failed and the couple divorced in 1986. Last year Mr Hughes married a woman who worked for his company.

When Hughes was released from hospital after a year he lived rough before returning to live with his mother. Personal hygiene problems cast him adrift from others. For weeks he would wear the same clothes. His teeth had fallen out because he never brushed them. His diet consisted of 20 Mars bars a day, because he could bite on nothing hard, and five litres of cola.

Hughes acquired 17 convictions over 19 years, mostly for theft and burglary. Over the years, allegations of his threatening behaviour towards children became increasingly serious. In 1981, when he was 16, he half-strangled a seven-year-old boy, Graham Lloyd, and escaped with a two-year supervision order.

His victim had been lured into a half-demolished house.

"He picked me off the ground and threw me down — he was a very strong man," Mr Lloyd, now a student in Nottingham, said. "He wound up astride me with both hands around my neck." Mr Lloyd started to black out and pretended to be dead until Hughes left.

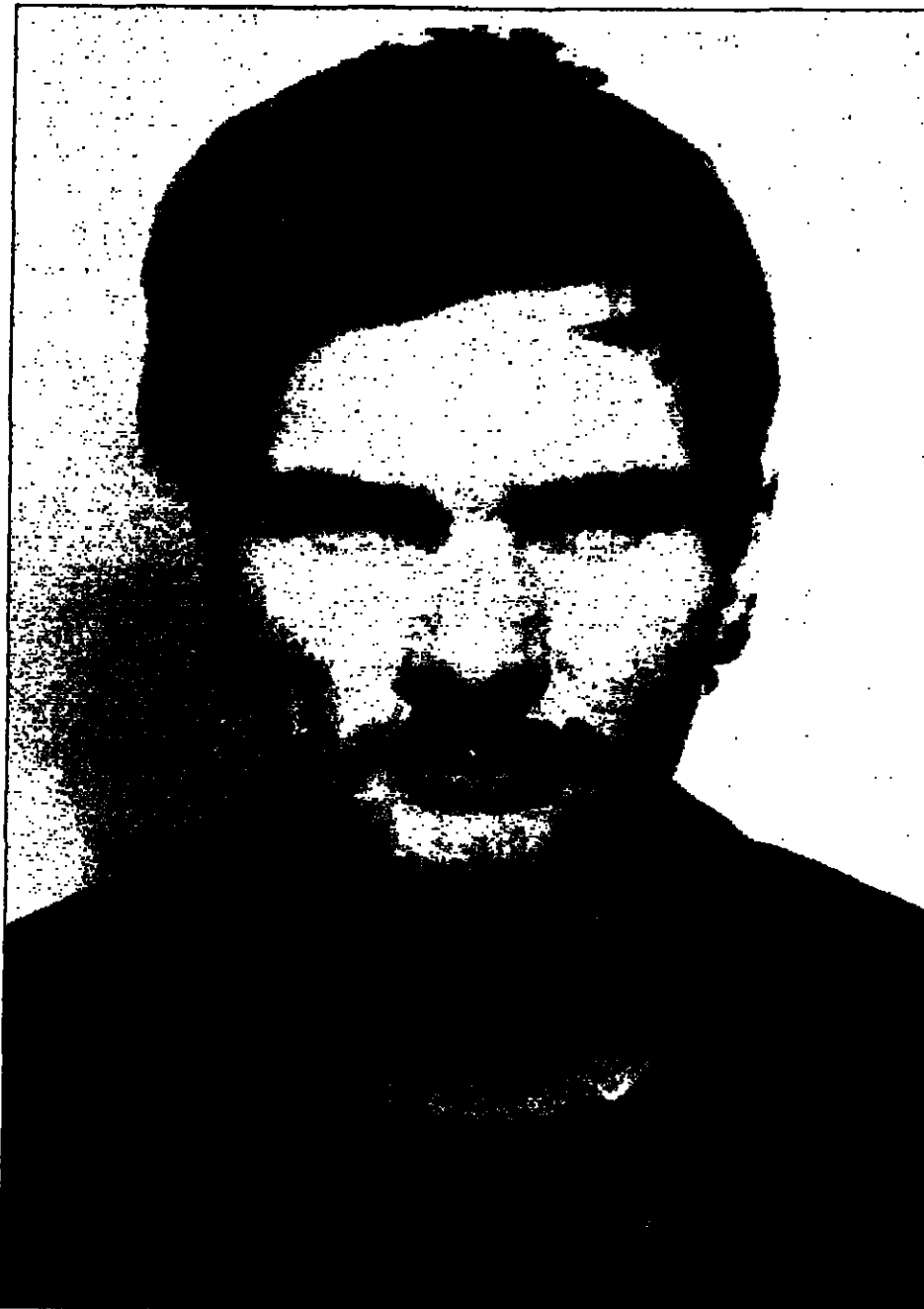
Lorraine Haste, who lived next door to the Hughes family home, said: "He would shout abuse when I was in the garden, disgusting things. I got so bad we built an 8ft fence at the bottom of the garden to keep him out and put tall gates at the front of the garden to stop him coming in the front way. It was like living next to a wild, unpredictable animal."

The garden adjoining the back of Hughes's home belongs to Liz Kelly, who became afraid to let her six children, aged between six and 17, play near the fence. Once her 11-year-old daughter and a friend were planning to sleep in their summerhouse. The girls were in the chalet, chatting and giggling, when Hughes banged on the walls shouting and swearing. The girls ran indoors.

In 1986 he was accused of indecently assaulting a nine-year-old girl but her parents were unwilling for the case to go ahead. In 1990 he was accused of indecently assaulting two girls, aged five and three, at Llandudno. The case was dropped by the Crown Prosecution Service because of the girls' young age.

After Hughes's arrest for Sophie's murder, police found pornographic equipment and literature at his home, much of it relating to children. He would cut out pictures of children naked or in their underwear.

He shared the secret of his obsession with young girls with Guidi, 32, who was befriended by Hughes when he was 13 and who stayed with him and his mother for three months after coming out of prison. Guidi said Hughes confided to him a desire to have sex with a girl aged four or five.



Hughes scared neighbours and brought death to nearby Llandudno, where Sophie returned with her family to visit her cousins' home

Killing 'could not have been prevented'

THE detective in charge of the murder inquiry said yesterday that he was satisfied that there was nothing the police could have done that would have stopped Howard Hughes committing the crime.

Detective Superintendent Eric Jones of North Wales Police said that Hughes had been closely watched since 1981, but added: "I am quite happy in my own mind that everything that could have been done was done."

He said the police did receive a great number of

complaints after Hughes had been arrested for Sophie Hook's murder. "I would not like to speculate as to whether, had those people come forward earlier, he could have been arrested and taken before the courts. It can be very, very frustrating at times."

He said that Hughes had been very astute and sharp during his interviews, and confirmed that police already had their own intelligence on him. "You will, no doubt, now know that Howard Hughes did make complaints of police harassment because of the

THE POLICE

close attention that was being paid to him."

He pointed out that there were a considerable number of convictions against Hughes since 1981, adding: "There are other matters that we could not proceed upon because of the lack of evidence."

Mr Jones was asked about incidents during the previous three years in which teenagers and younger children had made allegations of inde-

cency against Hughes. He said: "We must have evidence and corroborative evidence. If those elements are missing we cannot act. He was interviewed after all those approaches to children."

"In some cases the parents did not want us to continue with complaints. In one case it was adjudged that there was insufficient evidence to take before the court."

Mr Jones, who led a team of 120 police officers in the investigation, said: "We are very pleased to have convicted Howard Hughes ... how-

ever, there is no victory here for anyone. Nothing we say or do will bring back that little girl."

"The sad thing about this is that the Hook family will have to live with this forever and nothing can be done to help them."

Mr Jones paid a special tribute to Hughes's father, Gerald, who came forward to give evidence of his son's private confession to Sophie's murder as he was being held in a police cell. "It was a very brave thing for him to do and it was the right thing."

'The one time she needed us most we were not there'

By KATE ALDERSON

JULIE HOOK said of her daughter Sophie: "No child could ever have received or given more love."

Yet after Howard Hughes broke through the curtain of love and protection that surrounded the child, her parents tortured themselves with the thought that they were not with her at the moment she needed them most.

Mrs Hook, 35, a part-time teacher, spoke of the guilt that consumed her and her husband Christopher, 38, an advertising sales executive. "We both feel very, very sorry that the one time she needed us most we were simply not there. My mother feels guilty for buying the tent. Danny [Sophie's uncle] feels so guilty because he didn't sleep in the tent with them, so it isn't just us feeling guilty. That feeling will never go away."

Mr and Mrs Hook had moved with their children from Llandudno to the village of Great Budworth, 70 miles away in Cheshire, 18 months before the murder. They have two other daughters, Jemma, 9, and Ellie, 21 months, and a son, Joseph, 5.

Neighbours spoke of a warm, happy family. Sophie was the most extrovert of the children. "She was a bubbly and vivacious girl, a real Shirley Temple character with her brown curly hair and round face," one neighbour recalled.

The family kept in close touch with Mrs Hook's sister, Fiona, and her husband, Danny Jones. The Joneses also had four young children, who would regularly be visited by their cousins for "sleep-overs".

That Saturday, Sophie's cousin was celebrating his ninth birthday, and Mrs Hook brought her children to join in the fun at a garden party and barbecue. The Joneses' £200,000 home in Llandudno has a large back garden, shielded from the overgrown bridle path to the rear by a hedge and a gate. It was the perfect spot for a carefree afternoon in the paddling pool and playing in the tent that Pearl and Paul Roberts had bought as a birthday present for their grandson.



Christopher and Julie Hook at Sophie's funeral with their children Jemma, Ellie and Joseph

The boy was to tell police that it had been his idea to camp out, to test his new tent and the sleeping bag Sophie had bought him. When Mrs Hook left, no decision had been taken about whether the children would be allowed to stay out, but it was a matter about which she would have had no more qualms than her sister and brother-in-law.

To the children it would seem like a big adventure, but to camp in this apparently secure garden would have caused the most careful parent little concern.

"I knew it was a possibility, and I felt fine about that," Mrs Hook said later. "I kissed them goodbye and said, 'I'll see you tomorrow.'"

She could not have known that Hughes had spent much of the afternoon eavesdropping from the pathway, listen-

ing to the children's excited chatter about their camping adventure.

Mrs Hook took one of the Jones children and two of her own back to Cheshire. The families planned to meet the next day in Chester, when the holiday weekend would be completed with an outing to the new Batman film.

Mr Jones returned from work that evening to find the party in full swing. He lit the barbecue and built the children a bonfire near the entrance to the tent.

Later Sophie, her elder sister and two of the Jones boys settled down in the tent. Sophie's nine-year-old cousin recalled: "Daddy did up the tent and then he went round the back and lifted the tent to try to scare us. But we weren't scared. I told them it was my dad." After Mr Jones went into

the house the children played games and had a midnight feast. But soon after midnight, they went to find Mr Jones. They had been telling each other stories about the ghosts that they said haunted the old tramlines criss-crossing the field beyond the bridle path and the younger boy had become upset. He stayed in the house but the others returned to the tent, where they were settled quietly when Mr Jones made his last check at 12.45am.

In the morning, when the two Jones children awoke, they knew at once that something was wrong. Sophie was missing, and this was no game of hide-and-seek. Mr and Mrs Jones made a swift search of the area and called the police. A child's naked body had already been found on the beach a few hundred yards away, and it was not long before the family's fears were confirmed.

In the days of anguish that followed, their dignity and courage was apparent. Mr and Mrs Hook made two television appeals for help to find their daughter's killer.

Mrs Hook told how Sophie's elder sister, Jemma, was suffering most. "She is totally and utterly distraught. We are encouraging her to talk about Sophie, about things we have done recently. She is saying all the things I say — not to her — such as, 'I want to go to heaven to be with Sophie.'"

"I protected my children so much. They were not allowed to cross the road on their own. They were never allowed to go anywhere on their own. If not me, there was always someone very close. If Sophie fell off her bike, I was always there to rub her knee and say, 'It's all right, honey.'"

At Sophie's funeral a single bell tolled. Mr and Mrs Hook wanted the service to celebrate their daughter's life, and their other children were dressed in bright clothes and carried posies of wild flowers.

Jemma wrote a poem which was handed to mourners: "Sophie, my precious little sister, I am missing you dearly ... All the happy times I spent with you and will spend with you. I enjoyed and will enjoy."

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Thousands dying as bacteria become immune to drugs

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

THE growing number of bacteria which cannot be treated with any existing antibiotic may cause a global health crisis, an international group of scientists said yesterday.

Diseases which could have been cured a decade ago are now killing thousands of people worldwide because new strains have developed multidrug resistance. For millions more patients, standard treatments are failing to work as resistance grows. But no new antibiotics are expected this decade and few early in the 21st century.

A three-day symposium on antibiotic resistance, organised by the CIBA foundation, an independent scientific charity, in London, was attended by 25 scientists from nine countries. They heard that the over-use of antibiotics worldwide has irretrievably altered

the microbiological environment.

Professor Julian Davies of the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, said: "Over the last 50 years, we have been involved in an incredible experiment. Tens of billions of pounds of antibiotics have been released on this planet. The globe is bathed in a dilute solution of antibiotics. You might expect all microbes would have been killed. But they have not been killed, they have become resistant."

Professor Stuart Levy, director of the centre for drug resistance at Tufts University, Boston, and chairman of the symposium, said: "Multidrug-resistant bacteria are increasing, patients are failing therapy and some are dying. That would have been unheard of ten years or even five years ago in some cases. The

fact that we are losing any patients with multidrug-resistant disease who would have been saved a few years ago shows we are facing a crisis."

In the United States, 8 to 12 per cent of pneumococcus bacteria, which cause two million cases of pneumonia, 7½ million ear infections and 3,000 cases of meningitis each year, are multidrug-resistant and patients have to be given a powerful antibiotic vancomycin. "We are one antibiotic short of being unable to treat them," Professor Levy said.

Dr Mitchell Cohen, director of the division of bacterial diseases at the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, said there had been a breakdown in public health measures. "We have become complacent about infectious diseases. In 1969, the US Surgeon General said we could close the book on infectious disease but as recent events have shown, that was premature."

Potential killers such as tuberculosis, pneumonia and septicæmia have made a comeback. "Infectious diseases have a habit of emerging and re-emerging and we have to be prepared," he said.

The problem was less serious in Britain but would grow unless measures to prevent it were taken now, the scientists said. They appealed for more responsible use of antibiotics.

"Physicians often inappropriately prescribe antibiotics and people stockpile them and do not complete prescribed courses, all helping bacteria to learn how to survive. Antibiotic misuse accounts for more than half all the antibiotics prescribed in the developed world," the scientists said.

Scientists solve puzzle of obesity hormone

A MYSTERY surrounding a hormone that could hold the key to obesity has been solved by scientists (Jeremy Laurance writes). Researchers had been puzzled by the action of leptin, a protein made by fat cells which carries messages to the brain about the body's fat levels and tells it to stop eating.

The hormone, and the gene called ob that makes it, were discovered in December 1994. In mice, defective production of leptin — from the Greek word *leptos* meaning thin — results in gross obesity. Studies of human beings, however, have shown that obese

people have high levels of leptin in their blood rather than the expected low level, suggesting that the message to the brain is not getting through.

Now scientists at Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, have found that there may be a limit to the rate at which leptin can travel from the blood into the brain and that this rate may be lower in obese individuals, explaining why they overeat.

It may be necessary to find some other signal that will activate the brain's weight-control centres, the researchers report in *The Lancet*.

Baby given meningitis by pet lizard

By MICHAEL HORNSBY

DOCTORS have called on the Government to issue health warnings of the risks to young children from pet reptiles after a baby girl was given meningitis by a lizard.

Guy Makin, registrar in paediatrics at the Children's Hospital (Sheffield), said: "People need to be made aware of the dangers of keeping these types of animals as pets, particularly if they have young families." The six-week-old girl was referred to the hospital six months ago with fever and nausea, which was diagnosed as meningitis. She recovered after being given antibiotics.

The girl had been infected with a strain of salmonella — *Salmonella duban* — associated with reptiles and rarely found in humans, which she is believed to have caught from droppings from the family's pet monitor lizard. Dr Makin said salmonella normally infected only the bowel, but in the very young and elderly it could get into the bloodstream and the membrane around the brain.

Parents warned over soya milk

By JEREMY LAURANCE

PARENTS who choose to give their babies soya-based infant formula milk should seek medical advice about the risks, the Government said yesterday.

A committee of independent scientists appointed by the Health Department has said that phytoestrogens found in soya-based infant formulae can, in certain situations, behave like a very weak form of oestrogen, the female hormone. In animals this has caused fertility problems. The Committee on Toxicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment says there is no evidence of damaging effects in humans.

Phytoestrogens are a naturally occurring plant chemical found in peas and green beans as well as soya beans. Japanese and Chinese people who eat large quantities of soya show no sign of ill effects.

However, on the basis of the animal studies, the Government is urging caution. In laboratory studies, phytoestrogens have caused male

characteristics in females and the feminisation of males. Sheep grazing on clover containing high concentrations of the chemical have suffered an infertility syndrome.

About 1 per cent of babies are fed soya-based infant formulae, most on medical advice because they are allergic to cows' milk. The committee says these children should continue to be given it.

A small number of vegans and others who wish to avoid cows' milk products choose to feed their babies the soya-based version. These are advised to consult their GP or health visitor so they are aware of the risks.

Last month the Food Advisory Committee recommended that, as a precaution, baby-food manufacturers should look at how to reduce phytoestrogen levels in their products.

The concern over phytoestrogens is separate to that relating to another estrogen-like chemical found in some baby milk in the form of phthalates which have also been linked to infertility.



Soldiers from the Parachute Regiment searching the area yesterday close to the place where Mrs Russell and her daughter were murdered

Police seek car driver in double killing

By RICHARD DUKE

DETECTIVES investigating the murders of Lin Russell and her six-year-old daughter yesterday issued a likeness of the man who could be their killer.

The E-fit picture is based on a further sighting of a fair-haired man acting suspiciously near the spot in rural Kent where Mrs Russell, the wife of a botanist, and her daughter Megan were bludgeoned to death with a hammer over a week ago. Dr Shaun Russell yesterday told his daughter Josephine, 9, who survived the attack, that Megan and Mrs Russell had been killed.

"She has now been told that her mother and sister are dead and we think she can comprehend that because of signs she

showed when the news was broken to her," Detective Chief Inspector David Stevens said.

"Josie is now doing brilliantly. It is amazing to think that last week she was at death's door. She cannot talk, but doctors hope she will regain her speech and we are still hoping she will be able to provide us with some clues."

The latest description of the suspect is based on the evidence of a woman who was stopped at a police roadblock and remembered seeing the driver of a beige car who braked suddenly at a junction close to the murder scene in Chilenden on Tuesday afternoon last week. Her description tallies with that of another witness who saw an agitated man dump a white string bag in a hedge. The bag was

later found to contain items of clothing belonging to the Russell family.

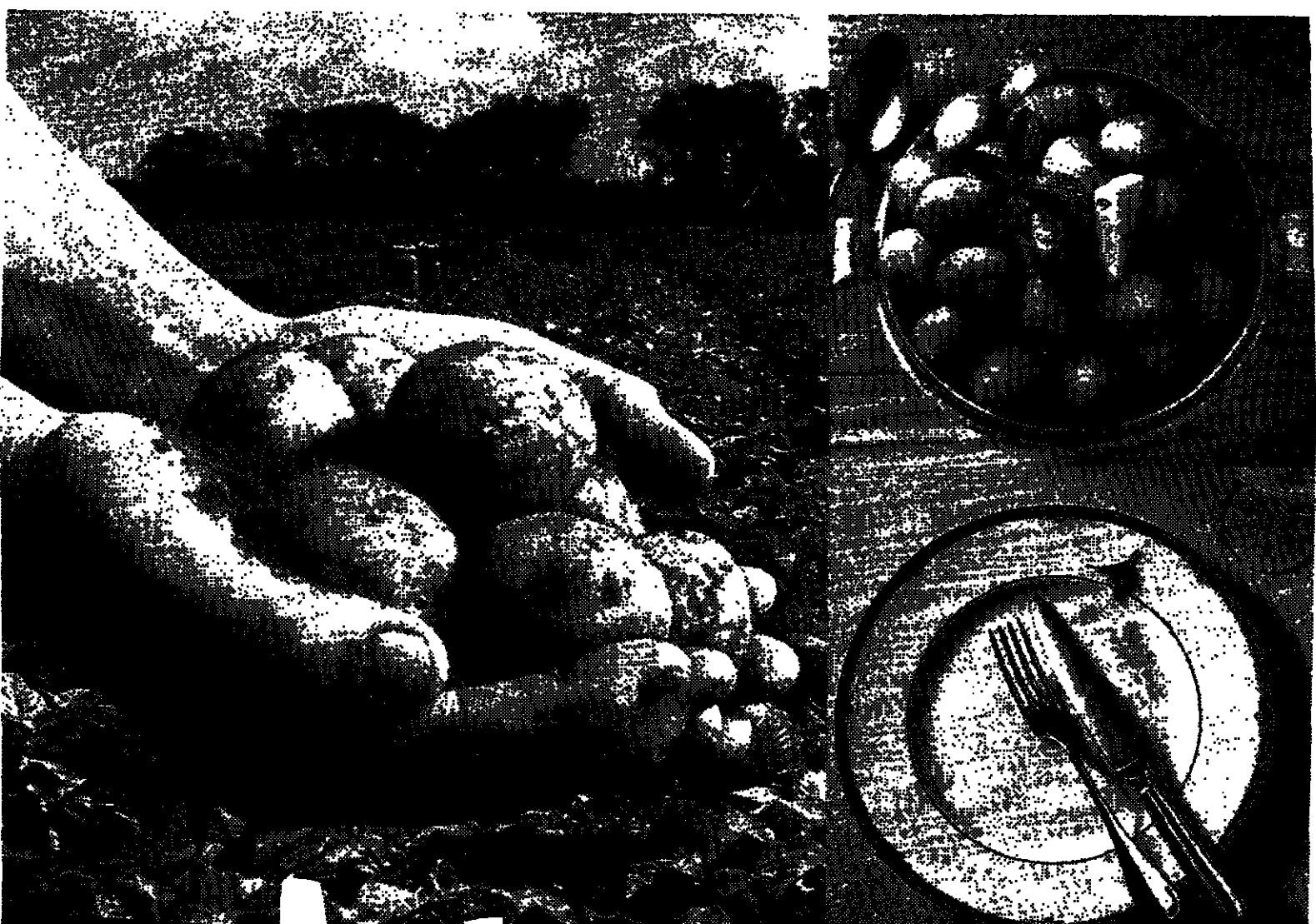
Mr Stevens said the latest witness believed the beige car had distinctive red anti-static strips hanging from the back. "This man could certainly be the perpetrator. If he is not, we would ask the driver to come forward as he must be an extremely important witness."

The man is in his 20s or 30s, with short light-coloured hair with a fringe. He has fair skin and was wearing a red T-shirt.

Josephine suffered multiple skull fractures in the attack and doctors have told Dr Russell, 44, that she may have permanent speech and mobility difficulties. The killer struck as Mrs Russell, 45, was walking the children home from the neighbouring village of Goodnestone.

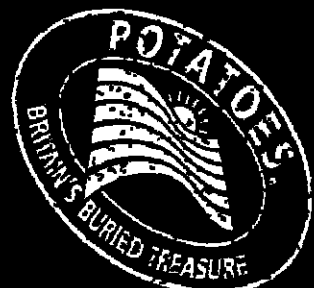


Likeness: police want to question this man

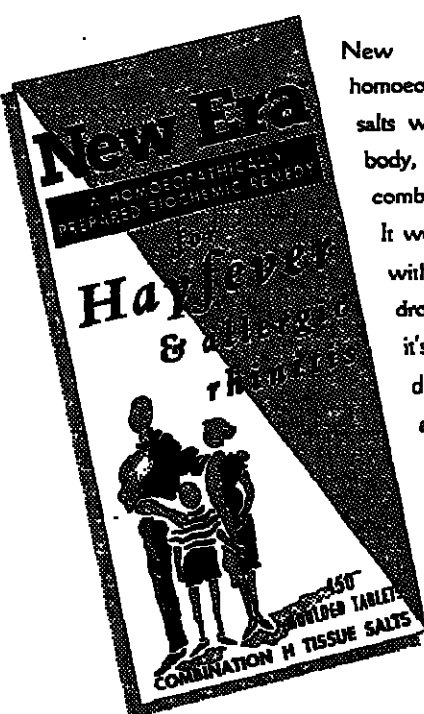


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SEVEN
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Health Care

Caesar's invasion fleet sought by sonar in the Solent's mud

By Nick Nuttall,
Russell Jenkins
and Norman Hammond

A SEARCH for ancient wrecks, including the remains of Julius Caesar's invasion fleet, has been launched by scientists using advanced sonar able to "peer" through mud, it was disclosed yesterday.

Researchers from Southampton University and the Hampshire and Wight Trust for Maritime Archaeology are mapping the sea bed in the Solent, a major seaway since primitive times. Professor David Peacock, an archaeologist at the university, said yesterday that the sonar, called Chirps, had already discovered a structure under mud in Langstone Harbour, Hampshire.

The find is in the same area where members of another team — who helped to find Henry VIII's flagship the *Mary Rose* 30 years ago — announced this week that they had discovered what they believed to be a Roman ship up to 15 metres long, a mile off Hayling Island. They were using a more primitive sonar that can identify shapes in the mud.

The *Mary Rose* diving team is hoping to revisit the wreck next month to get a chunk of



Don Bullivant with an artefact from near the wreck

wood for carbon dating. A small piece has been subject to tree-ring dating but Don Bullivant, from Waterlooville, Hampshire, one of the divers, said that the first sample was of poor quality. It has confirmed only that the wood is more than 500 years old and not of British origin.

During Caesar's invasion of Britain, some of his ships were lost in a storm, and some could have been blown toward the Solent. Professor Peacock said: "The chances of finding one of these would be remarkable."

The armada must have been an awesome sight to Britons watching on July 8,

54BC, close to the spot where Deal stands today. The Roman general brought with him a formidable maritime fighting machine of 800 ships, including 600 specially constructed transport ships, 28 warships and a large number of privateers carrying five legions of infantry and 2,000 cavalrymen.

It is not known which ship Caesar chose to sail on, but it is likely to have been specially constructed, largely by conscript labour, near Boulogne, his point of departure two days before. Powered by both sail and oar, the ships were much wider and lower in the beam than similar vessels of

the time, to ease beaching. It was not until AD43 that a maritime Roman invasion force brought conquerors to stay. Emperor Claudius sent an army of four legions of infantry and cavalry estimated at 40,000 men. The force, designed to silence Claudius's critics, even boasted elephants.

The *Classis Britannica*, the Roman British fleet, dates from the end of the first century. A naval fleet is known to have aided Agricola's military push up the east of Scotland as far as the Tay, in northeast Fife, in 81AD. Ships were used to convey supplies.

Archaeological finds have established that the naval fleet enjoyed a substantial presence in the South of England. Tiles with the names of *Classis Britannica* have been found in Sussex showing a large amount of naval activity off the south coast. If the Hayling Island find proves to be of Roman date, it will add to the scanty remains of actual ships that have survived from antiquity.

Commander Brian Sparks, of the Trust for Maritime Archaeology, said that the Solent was a fascinating region of sea bed to study. It was once an estuary with primitive Bronze Age and

earlier settlements along its banks. He said: "About 10,000 years ago, there was an inundation of the sea between the Needles and Poole Harbour which breached the river system and formed the Solent as we know it."

There was a further inundation of sea water into the area in the 13th and 14th centuries around Hayling Island. Since Roman times, sea levels have risen by about three metres, further flooding the land. So it is believed that the area is littered with wooden objects, including wrecks, jetties, harbours and primitive buildings.

Professor Peacock said: "We are looking at the Solent because it is one of the richest areas for ancient wrecks, as it was a major seaway to Britain. But we hope it will also be a buried landscape with all sorts of items preserved because of the inundation of water."

Francis Grew, of the Museum of London, pointed out that a Roman wreck was found on reclaimed land near Blackfriars, at the mouth of the Fleet. He added: "Any discovery of a Roman wreck is important because so little archaeological evidence exists."

Leading article, page 19



They came, they saw, they sank: a sea-going Roman ship with a barge alongside

Dishes that set barbecues alight

By DIANA THORP

STEAKS are not the only dish to be enjoyed on a barbecue.

Fish fillets can be wrapped in foil while chicken fillets can be made into kebabs and grilled.

Large prawns can be brushed with olive oil and grilled. Promotions include:

Asda: "healthy choice" pork range reduced by 50p a kg, rump steak £7.99 kg, two pack chicken breast fillets £2.48 for 298g, breaded haddock fillets £2.99 for 600g, peppers £1.49 for four, cauliflower 39p each.

Budgens: fresh chickens 1.5kg £3.29 each, Arkadia feta cheese cubes in oil £1.29 for 250g, nectarines £1.25 a punnet, soft serve raspberry ripple ice cream £1.19 2ltr.

Co-op: pork ribs in a Mexican style marinade £1.69 for 425g, fresh part-boned chicken breasts £2.99 for 600g, Birds Eye haddock fish fingers 79p.

Harrods: wild smoked Scottish salmon £4.99 for 100g, fresh lobsters £9 for one, two for £17, York ham on the bone £1.70 for 100g.

Iceland: sirloin steaks £3.97 for 261g, Birds Eye southern fried chicken £2.99 for six portions, breaded scampi £1.99 for 400g, seafood selection £2.49 for 368g.

Marks & Spencer: butter-basted boneless turkey breast joint £3.99 for 510g, reduced

fat hounous, reduced fat taramasalata and tzatziki 99p for 283g.

Morrisons: English lamb chops £2.49 lb, super roast chickens £3.99 each, large fresh salmon £1.79 lb, salmon steaks £2.09 lb, Weight Watchers vegetable lasagne 99p for 320g.

Safeway: rump steak £7.79 for 383g, gammon steak smoked £1.39 or unsmoked £1.29 for 255g, chicken stir fry £2.89 for 454g, carrots 35p lb, strawberry pavlova £1.79 for 6 portions.

Sainsbury's: fillet steak £15.19 kg, fresh pork boneless shoulder joint £2.99 kg, fresh boneless chicken breast £3.95 for four, pre-packed salmon steaks £7.50 kg, iceberg lettuce 32p each.

Somerfield: fresh lamb chops £9.87 kg, duck breast portions £4.99 kg, smoked cod fillet £1.57 lb, seafood cocktail £1.49 for 200g.

Tesco: topside/silverside top rump joint £4.39 kg, pork chops £4.75 kg, fresh skinless four chicken breast fillets £4.95 for 540g, St Peters fish (Tilapia) £1.99 lb.

Waitrose: farmhouse ground veal 99p for 340g, fresh chicken £5.49 for 2.5kg, smoked haddock fillets £2.95 lb, Duke of York new potatoes 75p for 1.5kg.

WEEKEND SHOPPING

Irish back Scots in French whisky war

By AUDREY MAGEE, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE Scots and the Irish have joined forces to defend whisky against a weaker, cheaper imitation from France. The Irish Government is backing the Scotch Whisky Association in the European Court in an attempt to stop the French from selling a blended whisky spirit as the genuine article.

The French version, produced by La Martiniquaise, is 30 per cent alcohol. The European Union minimum for the genuine article is 40 per cent. The French drink costs about £1 less because the lower alcohol content means less duty and tax. Richard

Burrows, chairman and managing director of Irish Distillers, claims the French are misleading customers.

"They call their product 'whisky spirit', and that is the nub of the problem which the court is seeking to address. They present it in exactly the same shape and size as regular Scotch and Irish."

Campbell Evans, of the Scotch Whisky Association, welcomed the Irish decision to back their challenge. "France is a very important market for Scotland. We have to protect it as the French protect champagne producers."

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Labour leaders split over call to end Tube strike

By Jill Sherman and Jonathan Prynn

THE Labour leadership was split yesterday over Tony Blair's demand for London Tube workers to call off their strike.

John Prescott, the deputy party leader, was furious about the tough line taken by his Shadow Cabinet colleague David Blunkett on Wednesday, which had been agreed with Mr Blair. Robin Cook, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, also appeared unhappy about the change of position when he gave a radio interview yesterday.

In the Commons John Major and his MPs exploited the disagreement. The Prime Minister said: "Mr Blunkett said the strikers should go to arbitration and that self-evidently must be right. I hope we will hear the same call from the Shadow Transport Secretary [Clare Short] and the deputy leader [Mr Prescott]."

Mr Prescott, who is sponsored by the RMT, told Mr

Blair early on Wednesday that he opposed the statement that the strike was "inappropriate" and that the parties should go to binding arbitration.

Last night Mr Prescott denied any rift with Mr Blair, but he was still said to be very angry about the decision.

The leftwinger Ken Livingstone, MP for Brent East, insisted that Mr Prescott was so furious he was "having to be scraped off the wall". Michael Meacher, the Shadow Employment Minister, was also said to be angered by the stance against the strikers, the toughest taken by the party in recent memory.

Mr Cook, too, the Shadow Cabinet line, but only just. Asked whether he supported Mr Blair's view on the Tube strike, he said: "Mr Blair has made his position perfectly clear. When pressed, he added: 'As a member of the Shadow Cabinet I share collective responsibility for anything any of us say.'"

Frontbenchers were later

told not to give radio or television interviews on the strike. Donald Dewar, the Chief Whip, was said to be unhappy with Mr Cook's comments.

Mr Blair's aides took a step further and said that the Labour leadership condemned the strike. They emphasised again that the two sides should go to arbitration but said that they were not suggesting compulsory arbitration for all strikes. One aide said the Post Office strike was a different matter and Labour did not wish to get involved.

Union leaders dismissed Mr Blair's calls for binding arbitration in the dispute as "pointless" because London Transport had already made pledges to its drivers that it was now trying to renege on.

Lew Adams, the general secretary of the Aslef union, said: "We have honoured our part of that agreement and the dispute is about the fact that London Underground have not honoured theirs."

More than 2,000 Tube drivers

from the Aslef and RMT unions are staging a series of one-day strikes in support of a demand for a one-hour cut in the working week. Much of central London ground to a halt yesterday morning as hundreds of thousands of commuters struggled to beat what was the nearest to a total shutdown of the Tube for seven years.

Motoring organisations said many drivers going to work were still trapped in traffic at 11am, three or more hours after leaving home. Gavin McWhirter of AA Roadwatch said: "Despite an early start — the rush hour began as early as 5.30am — millions of would-be travellers faced major delays on major routes, many of which resembled giant car parks."

The worst tailbacks were seen on the M25, M1, M3, M4, M23, A4 and A3, with traffic also locked solid on major inner-London routes such as Bayswater Road and Oxford Street.



Peers to challenge authority of MPs

By James Landale

THE House of Lords will launch a rare challenge to the authority of the Commons next week with a new assault on the Government's immigration legislation.

An alliance of Opposition peers and bishops will try to reverse a decision by MPs this week to reject a Lords amendment to the Asylum and Immigration Bill.

The move, known in Westminster as playing legislative "ping pong", tends to occur only once or twice every decade. The Lords accept most Commons amendments on the ground that MPs have an electoral mandate.

The Lords amendment, introduced by Labour with the support of many Tories, would have given asylum seekers a three-day "grace period" after their arrival in which to claim refugee status and avoid becoming ineligible for welfare benefits.

The Opposition will now table a new amendment to the Bill when it goes back to the Lords on Monday. Many peers fear that asylum seekers could be left destitute.

The last time the Lords "pinged" legislation was in 1993. Under the procedure, both Houses "ping pong" the Bill back to each other until neither is prepared to alter its amendments. The Bill then falls and after a delay of a year the Government has to force it through the Lords by invoking the Parliament Act.

Dozens of Tory associations found lacking as party raises £1.4m

By Andrew Pierce

DONATIONS from Tory supporters in the constituencies have risen sharply as the general election nears but the total is still well below the level enjoyed during Margaret Thatcher's leadership.

Payments to Conservative Central Office by local associations

totalled £1.1 million last financial year, which was £33,000 down on the previous year, but a further £300,000 was sent to the Critical Seats Club. The quota target was almost £3 million.

The Tory party, whose finances are bolstered by more than £3 million of loans from the constituencies, is planning an appeal to the

wealthiest associations. Party treasurers hope to convert the loans, which can be recalled at any time, into donations to ensure a big fighting fund for the election.

For the fourth year running dozens of associations, badly affected by falling membership, have failed to contribute a penny to Conservative Central Office. Others

sent amounts of less than £20. One of the biggest embarrassments was the failure of Peterborough, the constituency association of Brian Mawhinney, the party chairman, to send anything.

Other conspicuous non-contributors included Old Bexley and Sidcup, Sir Edward Heath's association, and Reigate, Sir George

Gardiner's association, which is one of the wealthiest.

Witney, where the former Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd is MP, made no contribution, nor did Teresa Gorman's Billericay association, Ilford North, where the MP is Vivian Bendall, sent £4.

The best performance was by Aylesbury Conservatives, whose

MP David Lidington is parliamentary aide to Michael Howard, the Home Secretary. They were set a £9,000 target but sent £84,000.

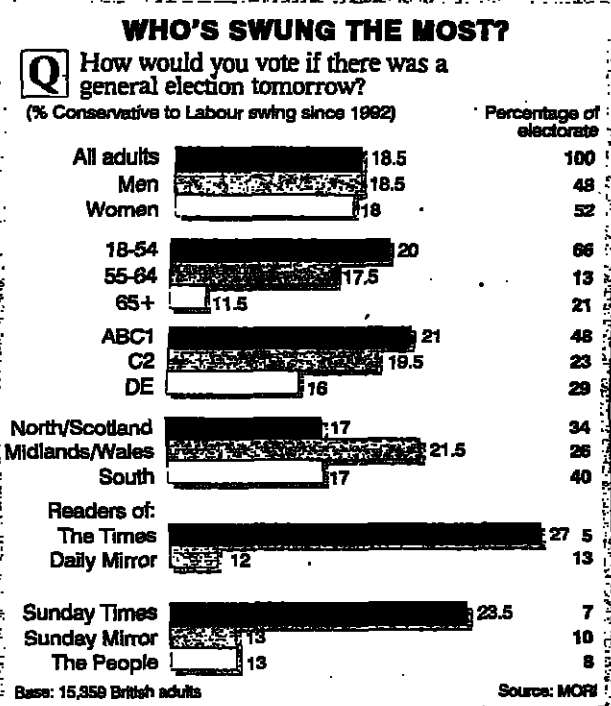
The financial year for the Tories ended with the party's overdraft down to just over £2 million compared with £11.4 million at the end of 1994-95 and almost £20 million the year before.

Analysis confirms Tories' plight

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

THE Tories' "New Labour, New Danger" strategy is aimed at rebuilding their core vote — and not before time to judge by the latest MORI aggregate. This consists of all 15,399 people interviewed by MORI over the April-to-June period. This analysis confirms not only that the Tories have much further to climb than at the same stage of the last three Parliaments, but also shows that their greatest problems are with their traditional supporters.

Despite a sharp rise in Tory support in June, the party's average rating for the quarter was 27 per cent, broadly the same as over the past year. But in early summer 1991 the



Tories were on 39 per cent, against the 43 per cent they won in the 1992 election.

As worrying for the Tories' is their weakness in previous strongholds. There has been a swing of 21 per cent from

Tories to Labour since 1992 among the middle classes, now 48 per cent of the electorate. This compares with an 18.5 per cent swing among the public generally. There has been an above-average swing among readers of newspapers which traditionally back the Tories. This has been highest of all, at 27 per cent, among readers of *The Times*, though this also reflects the different readership following the doubling in circulation since 1993.

The swing has been above average among 18 to 54-year-olds, those living in the East Midlands, East Anglia and the South West, people with mortgages, and in full-time work. All that reinforces the Tory decision to try to frighten these people back to the fold by warning them of the alleged dangers of higher taxes, higher interest rates and the like under Labour.

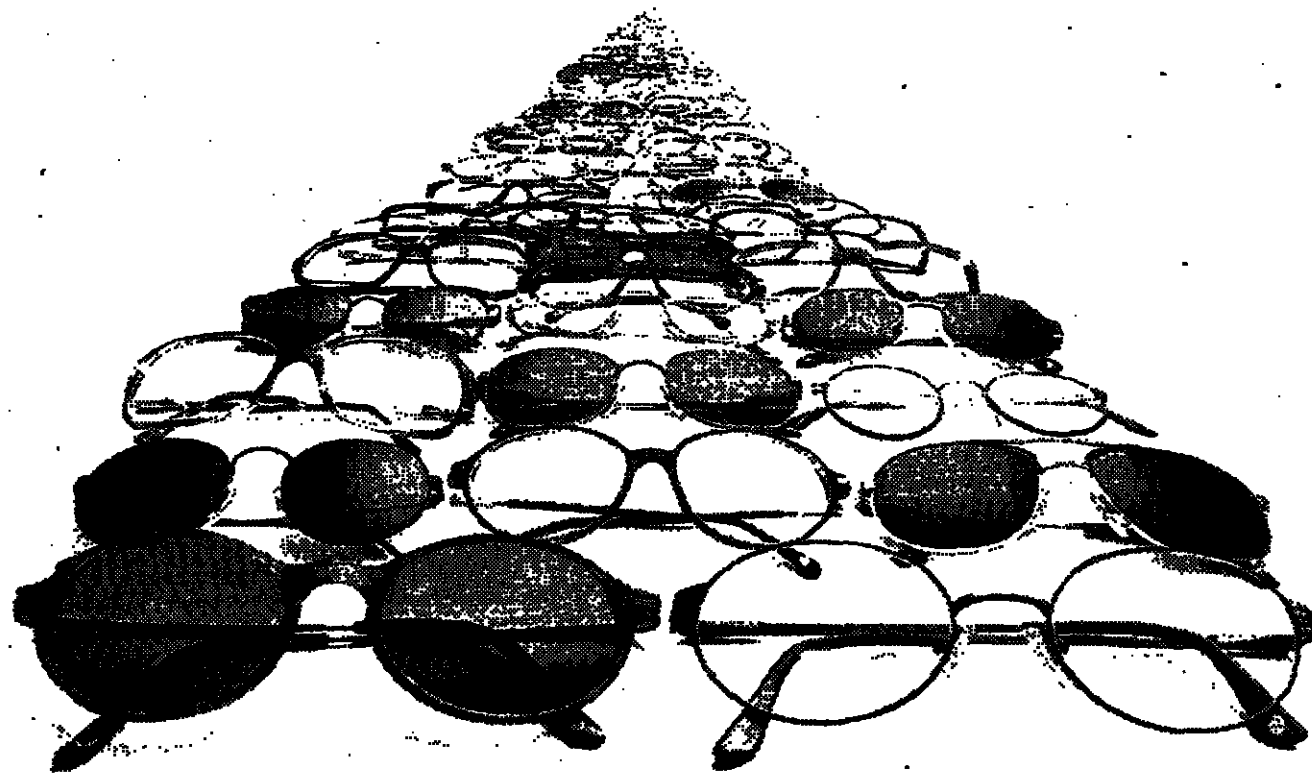
Other lessons are drawn out by Robert Worcester of MORI in the latest *British Public Opinion* newsletter. His guess, also mine, is that the election will be on May 1. As he notes: "MORI's latest polls show that the 'local feel-good factor' lasted only a few days and that the Economic Optimism Index, the 'economic feel-good factor', has not done much to help the Tory share either." He forecasts that Labour will have an overall majority of about 40 following the lowest turnout since the war as a result of high abstentions by former Tories, a Liberal Democrat resurgence to win 35 to 40 seats, and voters "cherry-picking" new Labour candidates over old-style socialists. I am less sure about the latter point, but most ominous for the Tories is his emphasis on the importance of party image — in particular, whether voters think a party is united and capable of governing, or split and preoccupied with infighting. That is where the public's view of Labour and the Tories has been reversed since 1992.

PETER RIDDELL

IN PARLIAMENT

TODAY in the Commons: debates on science policy and human genetics; clerical privatisation. The House of Lords is not sitting.

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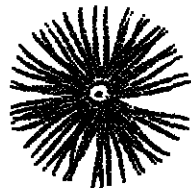
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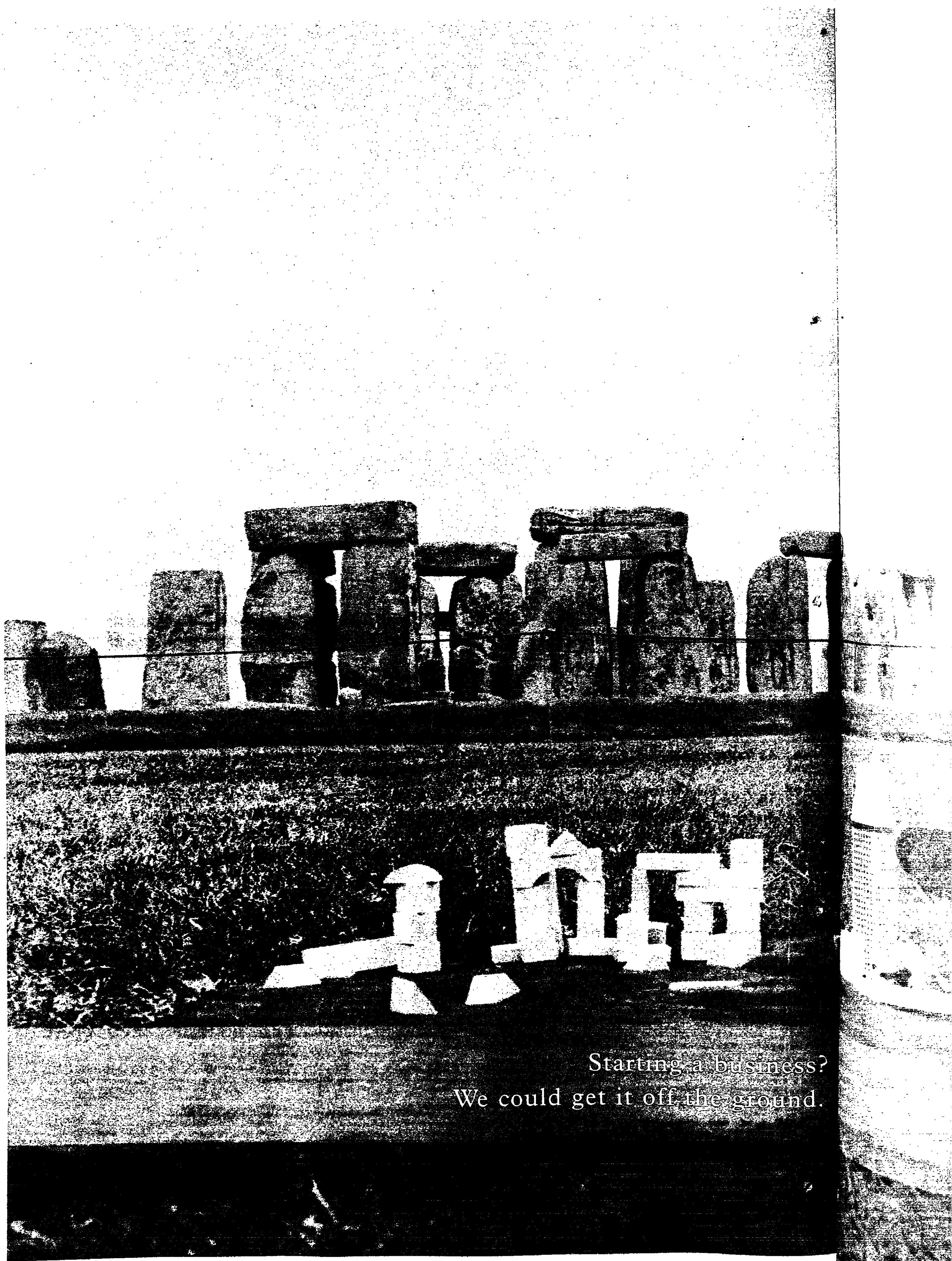
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KGB opts for hard sell of its greatest moments on CD

FROM OWEN MATTHEWS IN MOSCOW

THE KGB has broken a 70-year code of silence with the release of a slick, interactive CD-Rom depicting the defection of Kim Philby, Guy Burgess and Donald Maclean as one of the great triumphs of Soviet intelligence.

Yuri Mogin, the case officer who handled two other traitors, Anthony Blunt and John Cairncross, appears chatting amiably about "my friends from Cambridge".

The history is by the Foreign Intelligence Service (SVR) — formerly the First Directorate of the KGB. The most revealing section concerns atomic spying in the 1940s, when Soviet agents within the top-secret Manhattan Project informed Stalin of America's nuclear capability months before he was told by President Roosevelt at the Yalta Conference in 1944.

The hour-to-hour vacillations of Khrushchev during the October 1962 Cuban missile crisis are also partly explained in the history, which cites a barrage of conflicting

data from agents in the US about America's readiness to engage in nuclear war.

Opening with a Carré-esque video sequence of a black Volga Sedan cruising through the double steel doors of the former KGB's espionage directorate at Yasinovo to the strains of Tchaikovsky, the CD-Rom history is a hi-tech, cross-referenced compilation of video interviews, documents and archive film.

Colonel Mogin, now in his eighties, says: "Our contacts [in British intelligence in the 1950s and 1960s] were a golden period for us. What the British kept secret even from the United States was not a secret to us. These people were not traitors so much as patriots to the ideal of the Soviet Union. These were dedicated people. I really think they promoted peace in our times."

But for all the apparent frankness, seekers of bombshells will find the account is tantalisingly incomplete. George Blake, the KGB spy who defected to Russia after

escaping from prison in 1966, is not mentioned at all, and the issue of spying on the US in the recent past is ignored, as is the topic of Soviet defectors.

"An intelligence service has to keep some things secret, by definition," said Colonel Mikhail Lyubimov, Copenhagen bureau chief of the KGB in the late 1970s and the former boss of the defector Oleg Gordievsky. "We are still much more open than our colleagues at [the CIA headquarters at] Langley."

"Our aim was to reveal as much as possible without harming the service's reputation or national security," said Major-General Yuri Kobaladze, head of the press department of the SVR. "Though we still have a kind of ideology, the philosophy of the intelligence service has changed significantly in the past few years. We are now prepared to admit some of our mistakes, and talk about our history frankly and openly."

In the interests of posterity, or perhaps public relations, the obsessively secretive service allowed researchers extensive access to classified files and film material, releasing previously unpublished documents and photographs.

The history was initiated by the SVR more than a year ago in conjunction with a Russian CD-Rom design company. A committee decided which documents could be declassified for the account.

General Kobaladze said: "We are not ashamed that we want good publicity. In London and Paris you can find hundreds of books on intelligence."



Boy, a 26-year-old Indian elephant at Kiev Zoo, lies sedated yesterday while veterinary surgeons from Ukraine and Colchester Zoo, Essex, fill an infected, fractured tusk. The surgery lasted most of yesterday. As soon as Boy was tranquillised, the team put oxygen tubes up his trunk and began treatment. The tusk should regrow.

Gun lobbyists 'betrayed by Dole'

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE National Rifle Association threatened yesterday to withhold its presidential endorsement of Bob Dole after he decided not to oppose a ban on assault weapons.

Thousands of telephone calls, letters and faxes have arrived at the association's headquarters from members who said they felt betrayed by Mr Dole, the Republican nominee who would have expected support from the organisation.

Last week, Mr Dole issued a warning that if elected he might veto any repeal of President Clinton's assault weapons ban, enacted two

years ago, which outlawed the use of 19 types of semi-automatic firearms.

"What he has done is turned off NRA members from being active campaign workers in his election," said Tanya Metaksa, the group's chief Washington lobbyist. "NRA members don't just vote; they are campaigners, they walk precincts, they make phone calls, they stuff envelopes, but I doubt they'll be active now."

The group will not vote on its endorsement until September but Ms Metaksa said that it was unlikely Mr Dole would be approved. "President Clinton is the most anti-gun Presi-

dent ever to occupy the White House. But our members are disappointed, and disillusioned with last week's statements by Mr Dole."

Four years ago, the group refused to endorse President Bush for re-election because he had failed actively to oppose the Brady Bill, the imposition of a five-day waiting period to buy a handgun.

With a membership of three million, the association has been a potent force in American politics but numbers have dwindled in the past two years and, according to figures released at its annual conference, the association's cash

and investments have declined by more than half to \$42.8 million (£28 million).

The Oklahoma City bombing and the shooting tragedies in Dunblane and Tasmania appear to have damaged the credibility of an organisation that supports the Second Amendment right to bear arms. But it still wields much political clout on Capitol Hill where 200 Republican House members voted this year to repeal the weapons ban. However, Mr Dole, eager to distance himself from the organisation's radical image, may feel that he no longer needs its support.

Huge Tiger attack on troop base

Colombo: Helicopters yesterday dropped commandos near a military base, 175 miles north of here, besieged by thousands of Tamil Tiger rebels in one of the biggest battles of Sri Lanka's 13-year civil war.

Desperate soldiers had called in planes, helicopters and artillery support after waves of guerrillas broke through the Mullaitivu army camp's defence lines shortly after midnight, military officials said. Most of the base, with 1,200 soldiers, was said to be in rebel hands. Reinforcements were also arriving by sea. (AP)

Fijian ban on embassy essays

Suva: Fiji's Government has banned a school essay competition organised by the British Embassy because it says the contest disregards political sensitivities. The topic was: How will your future be affected by Fiji's Constitution? A commission appointed to review the Constitution is expected to table its recommendations to President Mara at the end of this month. (AP)

Eta suspected in barracks attack

Madrid: Three grenades were launched against Civil Guard barracks in the northeastern Spanish town of Puente la Reina but there were no injuries. The suspected Eta attack, the third against paramilitary barracks in the area this month, coincided with the departure of the Tour de France from the Navarre region. (Reuters)

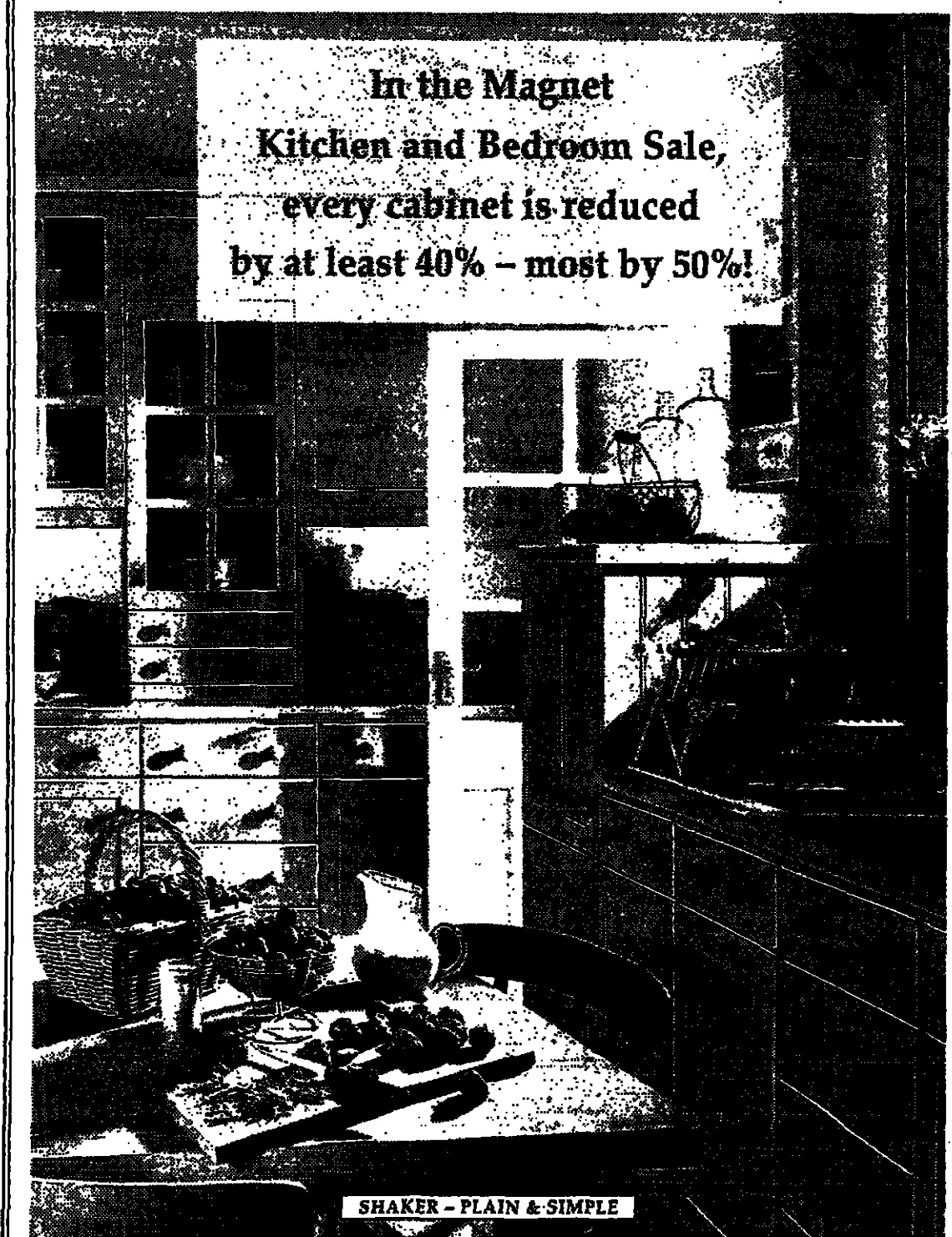


Burgess: "patriot to the Soviet Union's ideal"



Maclean: "promoted peace in our time"

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Suu Kyi calls for sanctions on Burma

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

AUNG SAN SUU KYI, the Burmese democracy campaigner and Nobel peace laureate, called in a smuggled video yesterday for international sanctions to be imposed on Burma to bring pressure on the Rangoon military regime.

"What we want are the kind of sanctions that will make it quite clear that economic change in Burma is not possible without political change," Daw Suu Kyi said in the appeal, which was shown to members of the European Parliament. "I think that the only people sanctions will affect are the privileged ones," she added.

The video was filmed by Vicky den Ouden, a Dutch journalist, who said she had found Daw Suu Kyi "under tremendous pressure, including emotional pressure" from the Burmese authorities.

Presenting the video to the parliament in Strasbourg, Clarys Kinnock, the British MEP, criticised the European Commission and European Union ministers for failing to take action against Rangoon for fear of damaging European interests in the region. She said the Commission had evidence of forced labour in Burma and urged it to act.

Although Britain, France and the United States are reluctant to adopt sanctions, pressure is growing for action. Denmark is leading the drive, spurred by the death in police custody in Rangoon of James Nichols, who served as honorary consul there for several European nations.

British soldier is killed in Bosnian shooting incident

BY STACY SULLIVAN IN ZAGREB AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

A BRITISH soldier serving with the peacekeeping force in Bosnia-Herzegovina died of gunshot wounds yesterday.

Major Brett Boudreau, a Nato spokesman, ruled out the involvement of any of Bosnia's warring factions. The incident occurred in the west of the country. More than 30 soldiers in the 50,000-strong Nato-led peace force have died since taking over from the United Nations last December.

Meanwhile, Richard Holbrooke, the American envoy, said he expected to return from his latest round of shuttle diplomacy without assurances from President Milosevic of Serbia to depose Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader wanted for war crimes.

Mr Holbrooke, who was whisked away from his Wall Street investment banking firm in a last-ditch effort to salvage the faltering Dayton peace accord, said this would mean that Dr Karadzic's nationalist Serb Democratic Party (SDS) would probably be banned from Bosnia's elections in September.

The ban, which was called for by Robert Frowick, the American head of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe which is responsible for organising Bosnia's postwar elections, could throw the peace process into its deepest crisis.

Mr Frowick said he would prohibit the SDS from participating in the elections if Dr Karadzic did not leave the public stage by today. Pre-election campaigning has been postponed on account of Dr Karadzic remaining as party leader. The Dayton accords forbid those indicted for war crimes from holding public office or participating in the elections.

However, officials at the Office of the High Representative, run by Carl Bildt, said the Bosnian Serbs would probably boycott the elections if the SDS were banned. "If the SDS is banned, there will be no elections."

Mr Bildt has stepped up diplomatic efforts to unseat Dr Karadzic over the past few weeks, and has been able gradually to sideline the Bosnian Serb leader by forcing him to relinquish his duties as a deputy.

However, the Americans and others insist that as long as Dr Karadzic remains on the political scene, he will use his influence to undermine the Dayton accord. The Muslim-led Bosnian Government has threatened to boycott the elections if Dr Karadzic is not removed from all positions of influence.

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GIs given a pregnant pause

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

THE code name of Operation Joint Endeavour for the peacekeeping mission in Bosnia has taken on an extra meaning for up to 70 of America's women soldiers. They have all been sent home for getting pregnant.

They were declared medically unfit because the heavy equipment harnesses worn by American troops in Bosnia pose a health risk to pregnant soldiers, the Pentagon said yesterday. America's troops in Bosnia endure a ban on alcohol but not on sex. The drop-out rate for mothers-to-be was greeted with scorn in Washington by members of Congress and con-

servative activists who question the wisdom of allowing women into frontline posts.

Robert Dornan, the hard-line Republican chairman of a congressional committee on security and personnel, promised to hold hearings on the pregnancies. He said: "They had better not be advising these women to have abortions."

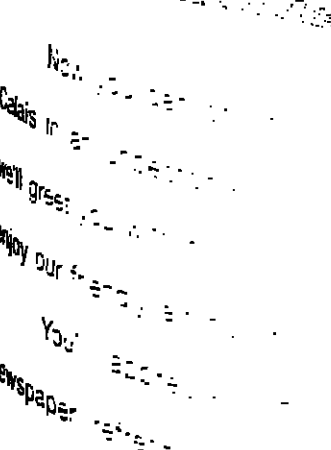
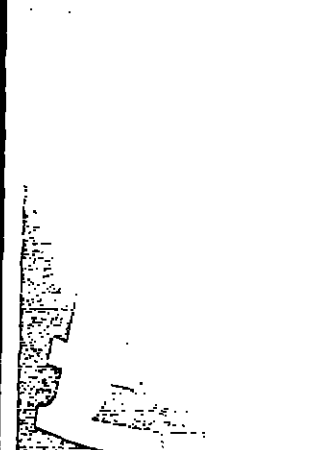
The armed services were naive to throw sexually active men and women together in close quarters in an isolated place, according to Robert Maginnis, a former Pentagon inspector-general who is with the Family Research Council. He said that many soldiers use pregnancy as a way of evading unpleasant duty. "If you are uncomfortable sitting

in the mud, feeling bored, getting fed up, unhappy with the food, all you have to do is find someone, get pregnant and you are back home."

The pregnancies, according to Mr Maginnis, were just the tip of the iceberg. "Even generals do it," he said, adding that the readiness of a few women to engage in sex created tensions that affected a unit's military efficiency.

Other experts said officers have known since the Gulf War when pregnancies emerged as a safe ticket home, that sex in the ranks hurts effectiveness. But they said commanders were unable to do much to curb it given the Clinton Administration's emphasis on promoting sexual equality in the armed forces.

Bail appeal means F-1 chief will



Bail appeal defeat means French rail chief will be fired

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

THE corruption scandal that is haunting France took two new turns yesterday, with a decision to remand in custody the head of the state railway company and the arrest of the Mayor of Cannes.

Loïc Le Floch-Prigent, president of the SNCF railway network, will lose his job after he failed in an appeal against the decision to remand him in custody in connection with an alleged financial scandal. Bernard Pons, the Transport Minister, said before the hearing that M Le Floch-Prigent would be replaced if he remained in prison.

Frédéric d'Allest, director of the Lagadère arms-to-telecommunications group, is favourite for the post, according to *Le Monde*.

Michel Mouillot, the Mayor of Cannes, was taken in for police questioning over claims by London Clubs, which runs a casino in the Côte d'Azur town, that he demanded Fr3 million (£385,000) in return for a licence to install slot machines. The money was allegedly destined for M Mouillot's re-election campaign.

Alerted by the company, a French police surveillance unit was present as M Mouillot allegedly told a director to hand over the cash to a 46-year-old man at the Ritz Hotel in London. The man, who was known to French detectives as

a drug trafficker, was arrested by British police. M Mouillot denies the accusations.

Yesterday's court ruling concerning M Le Floch-Prigent represents a double embarrassment for the Government, which gave him the job last year when it knew that he was suspected of irregularities. The left-wing opposition will argue that his appointment shows that ministers are soft on corruption.

The Transport Ministry must also act quickly to ensure that the new SNCF president takes up a key programme designed to head off damaging conflict with unions. M Le Floch-Prigent was given the post after railway workers took a leading role in the public sector strike movement which crippled France last December. He had recently persuaded the Government

and unions to accept far-reaching reforms that involved the state paying off the SNCF's massive debts in return for productivity gains. Commentators gave a warning that, unless his successor wins the confidence of union leaders, further strikes are likely.

In its judgment yesterday, the Paris appeal court gave its backing to Eva Joly, an investigating judge, who said that the president of the SNCF could put pressure on other witnesses if he were freed on bail.

M Le Floch-Prigent is under investigation for alleged irregularities during his time as head of Elf-Aquitaine, the oil company. He is accused of pumping Fr800 million of Elf's money into Bidermann, the textile group, which was run by a friend. In return, he is alleged to have received personal favours worth Fr2.5 million.

M Le Floch-Prigent denies all the charges.

If M d'Allest is front-runner for a notoriously difficult job, other names have been mentioned by the French press. These include Louis Gallois, the president of Aérospatiale, Alain Gomez, the former head of the Thomson television-to-arms group, and Jean-Paul Bailly, head of the RATP, the Paris Metro network.

Jackson surprises Mandela

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

MICHAEL JACKSON, the pop star, made an unexpected appearance at President Mandela's 78th birthday party yesterday.

Jackson, who is visiting South Africa before staging concerts in the country in September, surprised the President, who was spending the morning with his family at a friend's mansion in Johannesburg. There were unconfirmed reports that the star sang for Mr Mandela.

On his arrival Jackson said he was "proud to be home" and later laid a wreath at a cemetery in Soweto in honour of students killed in the 1976 uprising. He hugged children, blew kisses at the crowd and said he loved them.

One resident said: "It is just a publicity stunt. You can't call him a black brother. Some people say he is black but others say he is white."



Michael Jackson is met at Johannesburg airport yesterday by Khoisan X, second left, of the militant PAC

Hillary 'shielded by radio to win funds'

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE Voice of America, the broadcasting concern which prides itself on accuracy and independence, appeared to have developed something of a sore throat when graced by the presence of Hillary Clinton yesterday.

Long before the First Lady was due to arrive at the Washington headquarters for *Talk to America*, a phone-in

show aired to millions of people outside America, a memorandum had been circulated around the VOA offices stipulating that certain subjects were off limits.

The document, leaked to *The Wall Street Journal*, recounted a recent staff meeting with Geoffrey Cowan, director of the government-funded organisation and a close friend of President Clinton. "Geoff wants Hillary's VOA visit and TTA appearance to be pleas-

ant. This should help on budget... Says TTA questions must focus on Hillary trips abroad only... Geoff firm - no questions on Whitewater, healthcare, Paula Jones, Travelgate, Vince Foster etc will be taken from callers."

Mr Cowan said yesterday he remembered instructing his staff that questions should have an international focus but denied that he had issued an edict on forbidden territory. The hint of censorship to

ensure the financial security of the VOA, however, caused embarrassment at the organisation. Republicans, who have targeted the agency as profligate, were sharpening their knives to question the implications of Mrs Clinton's appearance.

Her office said no ground rules had been set for the interview but agreed with the suggestion that callers should be confined to a discussion of her international travels.

Accord on global warming

FROM PETER CAPELLA IN GENEVA

POLLUTION from burning fossil fuels is being blamed for global warming after a majority of ministers from 60 industrialised and developing countries yesterday endorsed a study which has concluded that human activity is the key cause of climate change.

The commitments to stronger anti-pollution measures, announced at the United Nations conference on the Climate Change Convention, brushed aside resistance from oil-producing countries, as well as strenuous lobbying by US companies linked to the energy and motor industries.

More than 154 countries have ratified the UN Convention. They will be free to decide what measures to take to reach future pollution reduction targets, once these are decided on at a conference in Kyoto, Japan, late next year.



President Mubarak describing yesterday's talks

Netanyahu ready to negotiate peace, says Mubarak

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

BINYAMIN NETANYAHU, Israel's Prime Minister, yesterday convinced a sceptical President Mubarak of Egypt that he was sincere in pursuing peace, despite a hostile reception here.

On his first official visit to the Arab world, Mr Netanyahu was left in no doubt of the grassroots anger provoked by his headline approach, but he was unexpectedly rewarded by Mr

Mubarak with an unscheduled military helicopter flight over the pyramids in recognition of his pledge to keep negotiating with the Palestinians.

Mr Netanyahu announced that next week David Levy, his Foreign Minister, would hold the first Cabinet-level meeting with Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian Authority president. He also pledged to partially lift the West Bank blockade and allow 10,000 Palestinian workers a day back into Israel. They have been barred since February's

Islamic suicide bombs.

The Israeli leader faced unprecedented media attacks here. Newspapers made offensive play on the Arabic meaning of part of his name, translated as "stinking". The biggest-selling opposition daily, *al-Wakef*, carried a crude cartoon depicting the Egyptian President holding his nose as he shook Mr Netanyahu's hand. An editorial by Mustapha Bakri, Editor of the daily *al-Ahram*, said: "The birds fly away to avoid smelling your hated fragrance."

"It is sometimes hard to remember that we have had a peace treaty with these people for the past 17 years," said one Israeli journalist flying on the Prime Minister's plane.

Mr Mubarak later told reporters he was convinced that Mr Netanyahu was not as bad as he had been painted. "When I met him, I had a clear picture about what could happen, a clear picture that he is going to go through the peace process. He is ready to negotiate here and there."

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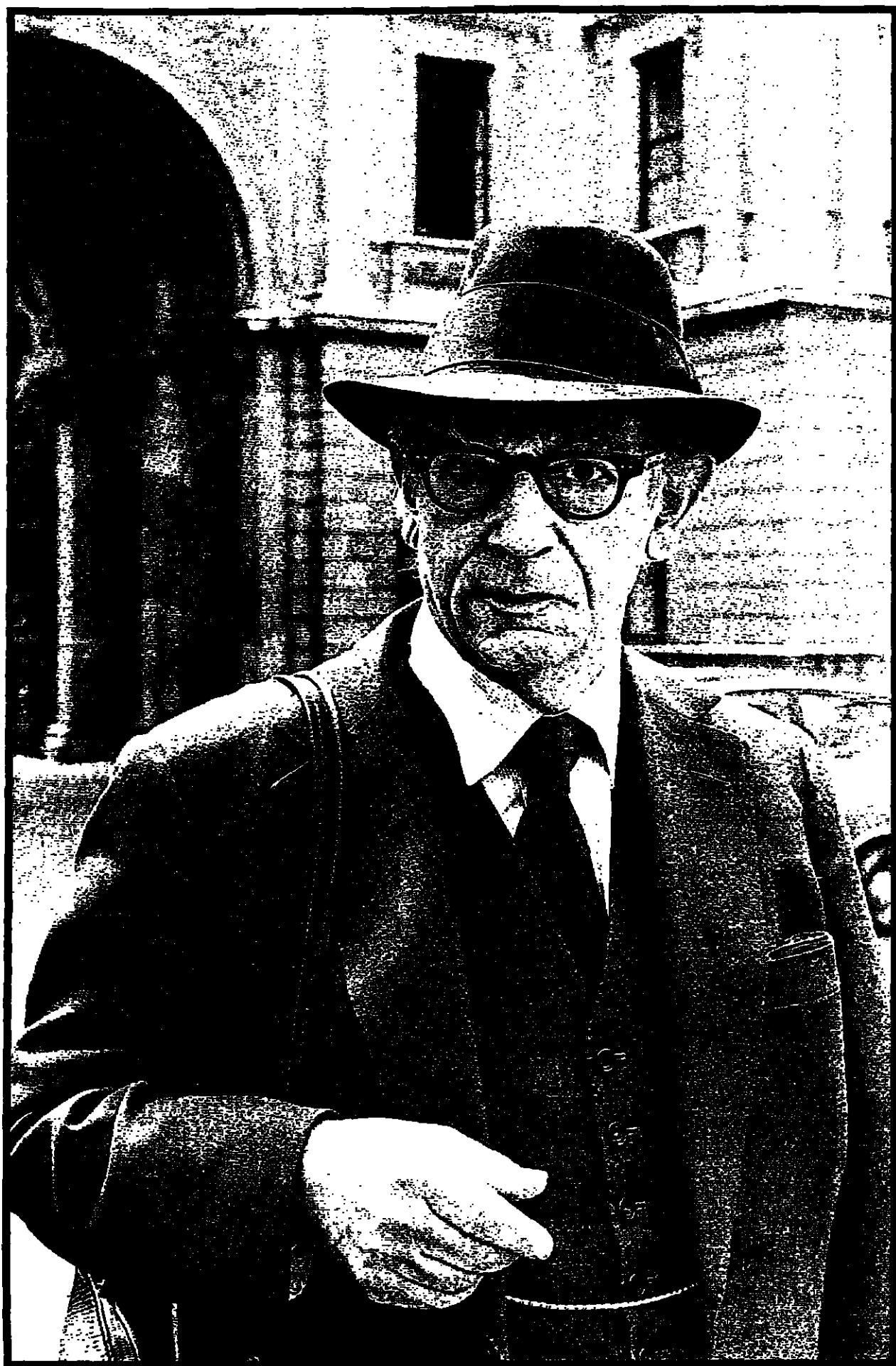
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At 86, Sir Isaiah Berlin says: "I, too, am afraid of dying. Like everyone else, I would like to die in my sleep"

Why I do not regret lying to my father about life after death

In his 86th year, Sir Isaiah Berlin talks to Anna Howard about the beliefs that have shaped his life and why he is frightened of dying

I do not believe in a world after death. I'm not against it. I'd rather like to think that there is a world after death and that we shall all meet in it people we love. But I don't believe it, because I see absolutely no evidence of it, and no reason for believing in it. It is just a comforting idea for people who can't face the possibility of total extinction.

We didn't talk about death at home. I do not recall my parents ever talking about it. I think my father hoped that there was a future life. In fact, when he was dying, he asked me if I thought there was going to be life after death. I said that yes, I did. That was a lie. A lie, which I uttered because he obviously wanted it to be so and hoped we'd be able to meet again, and I didn't want to tell him what I saw as the bleak truth. So I did not tell the truth, and I don't in the least regret it. Since I believed that nothing would follow one's death, why should I cause a dying father pain? I wasn't there at the actual moment of his death, and I don't know whether he knew he was dying. He died of leukaemia, but I don't think he had ever heard the word. I don't think he thought he was doomed. He felt weak and ill and may have thought he might be declining, but hoped to recover.

It is clear to me that you can't have everything, because some values collide. The idea that there is some world in which there is perfect justice, perfect love, perfect truth, perfect happiness, is not valid. Some of these things are simply not compatible with others and that is the true of our life here. One has to choose. In choosing one value, one thing or another, sometimes you may lose something else which you value. That's what choice entails. Therefore, the idea that somewhere beyond there is a world in which all these values are compatible with each other, will form a harmony, doesn't make sense in any conceptual scheme that I know. If it is true, it doesn't refer to situations that I can conceive of.

Let me add this: if I was asked whether I would mind living for ever — most people say that they would not — I think I would not mind living for ever, always provided that whatever powers there be could guarantee the following: if I could retain one hand, one arm, one leg, one ear, one nostril, a sense of smell, taste, touch, some mental power, and did not have to suffer great pain — if I was guaranteed all that, and believed in the guarantee, I wouldn't mind living on and on. I'm by

Where death is, you are not. What is it that you fear? I, too, am afraid of dying. But only if it's painful. Like everyone else, I would like to die in my sleep. Or be knocked down by a car and not feel it. I'd like the lights put out at once. I don't want to get more and more tired or have a long painful illness. I wouldn't like that at all. If I was very ill and I knew I was dying, I would like euthanasia. I'm in favour of it. I don't know why people are left to suffer when it's quite clear that they can't go on living. People say God gave us life and it is not ours to dispose of. If you believe that, this argument follows. I don't believe it and therefore I think it is cruel not to terminate people's lives if the alternative is a long period of useless, inevitable suffering.

I think about death more now that I am so old. But only in the sense of wondering when I'm going to die. I've lived so long and I'm astonished I'm still alive. I really find it very surprising. I never thought I'd live to this age. When I was young, I'd never met anyone who was 80 — I'm 86! The first time I met people of 80 was in All Souls College in Oxford in the 1930s. There were two old men there. They were ancient monuments! Most people didn't talk to them. They seemed remote from daily life. Old men to me were academics of 65, at most 67, for example Gilbert Murray, and H.A.L. Fisher. Warden of New College, who had been a Cabinet Minister under Lloyd George. Eighty-six is very old. Too old, some people would say. But I feel perfectly well. I've just had a pacemaker and feel better as a result. I don't know when I shall die, but I'm astonished not to be dead already. Astonished and delighted! When I go to bed at night now, I say to myself that I really ought to be very pleased if I wake next morn-

ing. It is a thought, but it doesn't linger with me. I wouldn't like to be told when I am going to die. That would feel like a pressure upon me, of a disagreeable kind. I live from moment to moment. I don't want to say "three more years, and whatever you can do, you've got to do within that". I don't want to know I'm due to die — it's the last thing I want to know. I used to dwell on the past a great deal, when I was younger. Before the war, for example, I thought about the past much more than I ever

I am filled with curiosity and long to know, what next?

thought about anything else. For some reason, since the war — maybe it was after marriage — I haven't thought about it in the same way. I think about the past, because I remember it. I remember it because a man is writing my biography and he keeps asking me questions. So I try to remember. But on the whole, I don't dwell on the past. Nor on the future. I think about the present. And not much about that — I just go on living. Living, acting, seeing, talking, hearing, reading. I'm not very self-conscious. Nor have I ever been ambitious. I have never aimed at something in the future. I'm simply telling you what I'm like and there are probably millions like me. The people I meet aren't obsessed with death, as far as I know — at least, they don't talk to me about it. Particularly my contemporaries. There are some people of my own age

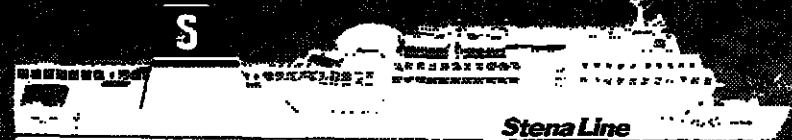
who are still alive: Stephen Spender, who died the other day, was my exact contemporary. I knew him as an undergraduate in Oxford. I don't think he brooded about death — well, he must have done because he was ill towards the end of his life and he must have had thoughts about it. In fact, one of his doctors was cruel enough to tell him that he didn't think he'd live very long. But he didn't talk to me about that. We behaved as if everything was normal, as if we would live for ever.

Auden must have thought about death, because he became a Christian. He could be very amusing at times on the subject. "I will tell you," he said, "what I think purgatory is like" (Catholics believe in purgatory, but he believed in it too because he was basically Anglo-Catholic). "It is like this: you are locked up in a room with somebody whom you have utterly despised all your life. Not just hated, but despised, couldn't bear to be with, held in the deepest contempt. When you've learnt no longer to despise him or her, and begin to love this person, then you are let out."

I remember that Bertrand Russell, who was of course an atheist, when someone asked him: "Mr Russell, supposing after you die, you find there is another world and you meet God — what will you say to him?" Russell said: "I would say — well, why on earth didn't you give better evidence of your existence?" I wasn't married until quite late in life and I thought I would never marry, that nobody would wish to marry me. I assumed that I was not attractive to women. So I never approached them as others did, and that might be a little abnormal. But in the end, it all happened. Late in life. My wife is 80 and we have lived together very happily for 40 years. We still do.

I have known very little missing in my life — I feel at once slightly ashamed and yet happy about this. I've had a fuller and more contented life than I probably deserve.

● An abridged extract from *Death: Breaking the Taboo*, published by Arthur James, £6.90



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If I was very ill and I knew that I was dying, I would like euthanasia

nature an observer. I am filled with curiosity and long to know, what next?

I've never seen someone at the moment of death. My father died in hospital; the doctors said he would go on living, and then I was rung up and told he was dead. My mother lived to a great age, and, again, I asked the doctor if I ought to be in London with her, might she soon die? No, I was told, she'll live at least another year. She died that night. So I wasn't present when either of them died. I saw my dead father in his bed, when I had to go to the hospital to arrange for the death certificate. I had grown up with him, he was a very nice man, he was very fond of me, he didn't interfere with my life, we always got on very well with each other. I liked his company, he liked mine — and he was gone. I was very, very fond of him, devoted to him. And terribly sorry I'd see him no more.

About fear of death. The Greek philosopher Epicurus said something which I accept: "Why are you afraid of death? Where you are, death is not.

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A man who knows his station



Matthew Bannister, the new BBC Head of Radio: he is confident, brisk, emphatic and convincing... and even though he asserts that Chris Evans is the most talented entertainer in British broadcasting, he is no Yahoo

Matthew Bannister is custodian of BBC radio's crown jewels. How well will he care for them?

Blue skies over Birmingham, where the Radio Academy convened this week. The BBC has at last found a man who can communicate without sounding like a dyslexic Dalek or a bullying prep school master. Matthew Bannister, the new Head of Radio — Liz Forgan's replacement — managed to put across the BBC's case with a confident, baritone delivery: brisk, emphatic and convincing.

When he was given the job last month, the Disgusteds of Tunbridge Wells protested on Facebook that "the man who formerly ran Radio 1, a station played by mechanics in garages, had been given the crown jewels". And wasn't he the man who had axed the ageing disc-jockeys on Radio 1, "the station your mum listened to over a cup of cocoa", and installed the odious Chris Evans?

Bannister wears the tough expression that comes naturally to one with eyes on the piggy side and heavy jowls. He is 39, stockily-built; his hair curls over his collar. But he is no Yahoo.

To begin his speech entitled "Tomorrow" he used a hoary but effective ploy. He read out newspaper headlines such as "Opposition mounts in BBC to new programme plans", from *The Times*; and extracts from news stories such as "Grievance and resentment run deep at Broadcasting House... conflict between cost-conscious bureaucrats and those innocent people who say they just want to make programmes" and then revealed that these were all from January 1991 when the BBC chiefs announced that the Home Service and the Third Programme were to be replaced by newfangled Radio 4 and Radio 3.

No change at the BBC happens without enraging both its staff and the public. Three years ago I was at the same Birmingham radiofest, to hear Mark Tully's blast against the BBC and against John Birt's managerial communications, "so chillingly formalised and systematised, engendering a sense of fear". It has been clear in the years since that more than half the rage and fear is caused, ironically, by bad presentation and inept communication.

Hence the general confidence inspired this week by Bannister's first appointment. James Boyle as new Controller for Radio 4. Boyle has that reassuring Scots voice, and immediately endeared himself even to Radio 4 vigilantes with his *Today* phone-in. Asked what was the abiding characteristic of Radio 4, Boyle canily replied "intelligence".

Bannister, unlike his predecessor, is a born-and-bred radio man. He read law at Nottingham University but got "the Drama Society third", having spent all his time on the stage. Afterwards, he took a dogbody apprenticeship at Radio Nottingham at £3,000 a year, progressing from rock shows and religious programmes to presenting a current affairs breakfast show.

Eight years ago he was just about to move from Capital to GLR when a terrible blow struck. His first wife, Amanda Walker, a BBC journalist, drowned while swimming in the sea on holiday on the Costa Blanca. Bannister was playing with their small daughter Jessica on the beach when her body was brought ashore. "It was a traumatic time," he said. He had to fling himself into his new job, which was running GLR.

Happily, he found a new wife, "even more high-powered than I am", an EMI vice-president who travels the world. They have a son, Joseph, six, and live their fast-track life from a house in North Kensington, with an elderly live-in nanny named Lydia and a cottage in West Sussex to escape to at weekends.

THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW



He was brought up in Sheffield (hence Birtian vowels and his pronunciation of Radio 4), the eldest of three sons of a British Steel research chemist who was also a radio comedy enthusiast. So he grew up with the *Goons* and *Round the Horne*.

He does not have to be told that the BBC's Radio 3 and 4 audiences are sensitive, critical and resistant to change. As with re-naming pubs, any tampering with schedules makes people feel amputated from their pasts. Recent debates over Gerry Anderson (the wrong voice for Radio 4) and Paul Gambaccini (wrong for Radio 3) have proved the power of the listener. Which is as it should be: radio, of all media, is the most intimate. Bannister understands that unique relationship. He says he has no plan to change Radio 4's abiding aura of well-researched, crafted and authoritative programmes.

But Bannister also defends his assertion that Chris Evans is "the most talented entertainer operating in British broadcasting today". I sampled Evans yesterday and could not endure for more than five minutes the manic you-don't-have-to-be-mad-to-work-here-but-it-helps atmosphere.

Yes, he has had to give Evans wiggles about taste and decency, but he waxes lyrical about Evans's "instinctive broadcaster's ability to invent fantasies, events, ideas from nothing".

I thought I should warn him about the fatuity of trying to wean listeners from one BBC

station to another. We all gravitate to a station according to age and need. "Audience reach" is a spurious goal. You don't get the young to graduate to Radio 4 by grafting on regional voices, any more than you will persuade us Radio 4 types to enjoy Chris Evans.

"Yes. We shouldn't try to reach out by doing things that are out of nature and character with the service," he said. "But we can commission new ideas which might bring people in. Radio 4 comedy like *On The Hour*, which spawned Alan Partridge, brought in new talent — and new listeners."

The point about the five BBC stations is that a listener knows almost instantaneously whether a programme sounds right for the station. People have instantly discovered that *Goodness Gracious Me* — a sharp, witty Asian comedy show — is dead right for Radio 4, while *Cross Questioned*, a dire panel game with a giggling Caroline Quentin in the chair, is emphatically not.

"Look, we are having these conversations all the time," Bannister said. "Some new ideas seem pretty ropey at first but you can work on them. We have the wonderful security of public funding. It takes time to know whether a radio show works." But if they had heeded listeners' immediate and visceral reactions, it need not have taken so long before they put Gerry Anderson out of his misery? He said they had to give it time and do proper research first.

"It's like coming into your own house and finding someone has moved the furniture around. It is disconcerting. But if you persevere, it may just be that the sofa is now in a better position to see the view from the window."

Radio listeners' storm-tossed existence is not over yet. Yesterday John Birt faced a parliamentary grilling about the World Service. Bannister — whose remit does not include the World Service — insists that the hue and cry within Bush House is abating. Tony Hall's eloquent speech to the academy had converted everyone.

The job of radio chief, Bannister is discovering, is to allay fears. "Bi-media does not mean putting television programmes out on the radio," he explained to his audience. "It just means our broadcasters have the exciting potential to broadcast in either medium, which only the BBC can offer."

Broadcasting House, "a building we all feel emotional about", will not be "full of accountants". "When news and current affairs move into TV Centre, BH will still be full of programme broadcasters from Radios 1, 2, 3 and 4."

And by late 1997 we shall all want DAB — Digital Audio Broadcasting. It will solve the two great irritations of radio: interference (there is none) and tuning in (you push a button). Even the diehards of Tunbridge Wells will take to it. They just need a Bannister to tell them so without feeling they are being bullied into believing it.

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Grilling the whizz-kids of Whitehall

Ministers mustn't hide behind officials, says Sue Cameron

The "kids" who wrote the Treasury report leaked to *The Times* this week are mature enough to be aware that Whitehall is about to find itself in the eye of a constitutional storm. Mandarins are going to find it harder to keep their secrets secret — especially from inquisitive MPs. That is why the report proposes a pre-emptive bid by Treasury officials to improve contacts with the chairmen of Commons select committees.

The House of Commons may be about to reassess itself against the executive, in a move that could set the leaders of both major parties against backbench MPs. The reformers want to make named civil servants directly answerable to MPs under certain circumstances — notably when the Government machine is being accused of misconduct, misjudgment or maladministration. They believe senior officials and the chief executives of government agencies should answer to Commons select committees without ministers having an automatic right to gag them or to stop particular civil servants appearing at all.

For years governments have insisted that officials can give evidence to select committees only on behalf of their ministers and under their direction. It is a rule that has never been endorsed by the Commons. It means that ministers can forbid officials to answer awkward questions from MPs, or ban named civil servants from appearing before select committees altogether as they did after the Westland fiasco and again when the Trade and Industry Select Committee started looking into the Iraqi Supergun affair. On the latter occasion, the Government's refusal to allow two retired officials to appear was condemned by Sir Richard Scott as a "failure to comply fully with the obligations of accountability to Parliament".

It was the Scott report on exports to Iraq that started calls for change, for it insisted that ministers must make "the best first-hand evidence" available to investigating select committees. Often that means civil servants, not ministers. Much of the time, ministers are happy for their officials to speak freely to select committees. The trouble comes when the Government has something to hide. That is when ministers want to gag officials. But now the cry for reform has been taken up by the mandarins' own trade union, the First Division Association. The association is concerned because the Scott inquiry showed how easily civil servants can be blamed for wrongdoing or incompetence, even though they have no opportunity to defend themselves publicly.

Already the Trade and Industry Committee has spelt out the shortcomings of the present system in its latest report. The main finding of the report which covered export licensing and the UK-based company BMARC, was to clear the former Treasury and defence minister Jonathan Aitken of any misconduct. Those sections of the press which had been baying for Mr Aitken's blood were none too keen on

advertising such a finding, which meant that the committee's recommendations on Whitehall also went largely unreported. Yet these were of huge import.

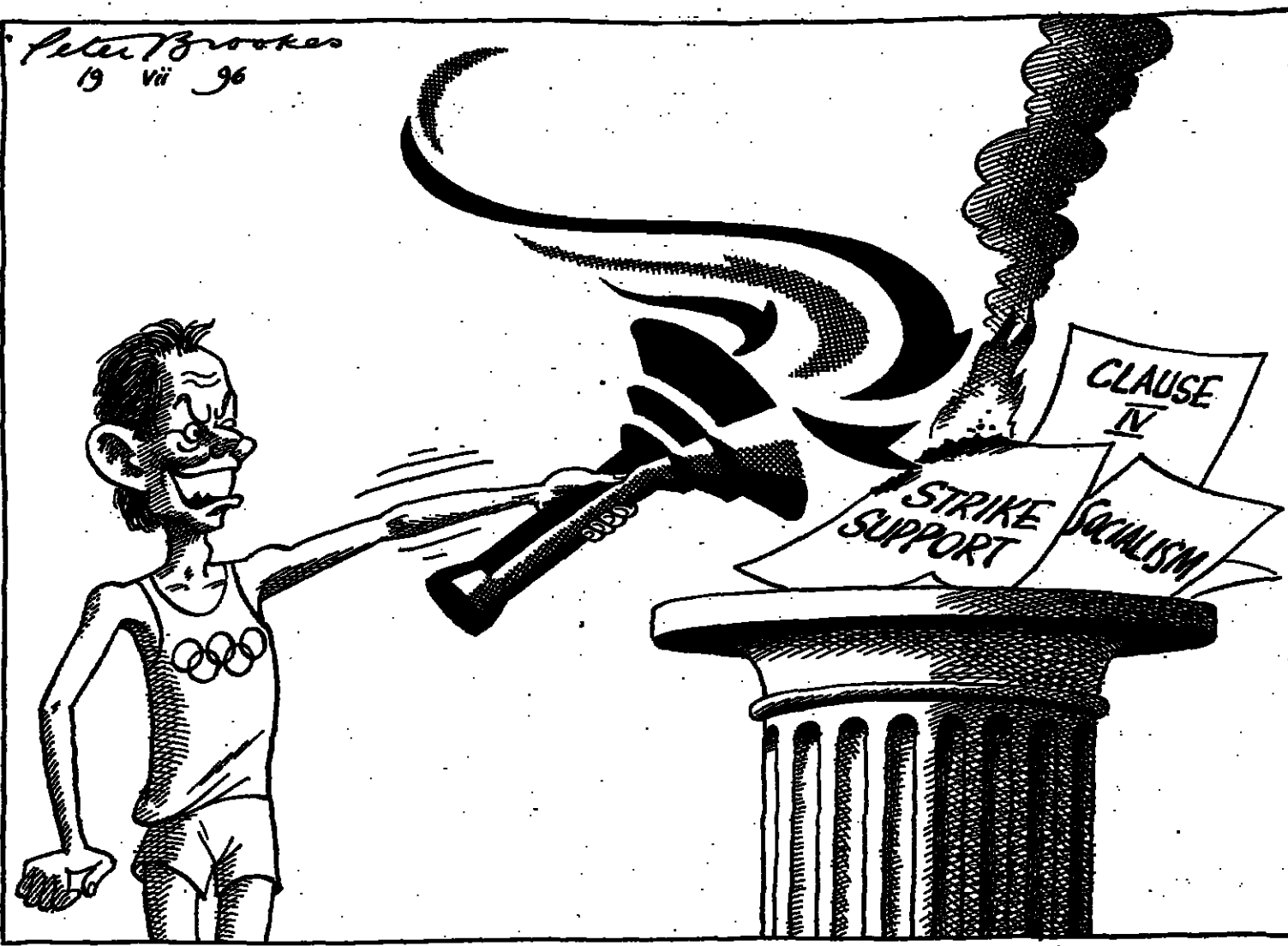
"We have no quarrel," says the report, "with the principle that civil servants give evidence on behalf of their ministers, subject to an overriding obligation not to provide untrue or misleading answers. However, it is not a necessary consequence of that principle that ministers have complete freedom to determine which questions civil servants may answer, even when the reason for refusing to answer is only departmental or ministerial embarrassment."

The committee goes on to suggest that the Commons should specify the reasons it is willing to accept for civil servants refusing to answer questions — such as national security. Such a move would introduce a vital additional check on the power of the executive, making it harder for unscrupulous or incompetent ministers to hide. The Public Services Committee is expected to make a similar call when it reports later this month.

Predictably, the Government is against any such change, on the spurious ground that it would reduce the accountability of elected ministers to the Commons. But what of new Labour? Surely the party of constitutional reform must favour more vigorous Commons controls over the unbridled power of government? Not so, Tony Blair and his Shadow team have every bit as conservative as John Major and his ministers. Senior Labour people trot out exactly the same threadbare arguments about ensuring that elected ministers, rather than unelected officials, are accountable to the Commons.

Labour and Tory backbenchers think differently. The Trade and Industry Committee, chaired by Labour's Martin O'Neill, accepts that while ministers must be accountable for everything that happens in their departments, they cannot be held responsible for things that are done in their name but which they know nothing about. "Without examining the internal workings of a department, it is likely to be difficult or impossible to ascertain where a minister's personal responsibility ends," the MPs say. "Select committees cannot leave it to ministers to determine that point, since whenever anything goes wrong, ministers will have a strong interest in minimising the area of their personal responsibility. The doctrine that accountability and responsibility are separate therefore requires that select committees be able to take evidence from named civil servants."

Ironically it is the Government itself that has been the chief exponent of the idea that accountability and responsibility are quite different matters. But the Government, whether it be Tory or Labour, cannot have it both ways. If ministers are to escape blame, then MPs must be able to cross-examine civil servants freely, in order to find out where the blame does lie.



That sinking feeling

Not only are London's bridges falling down — the entire infrastructure is collapsing. And as for Pisa...

London Bridge is falling down, falling down, falling down, London Bridge is falling down, my fair lady. I don't want to worry you, but whoever coined that jingle wasn't far off the mark, particularly because the nursery rhyme has another, even gloomier, version, viz., that Westminster Bridge is broken down; it has been worked on for a long time, and I don't know if they have got it right. Earth hath little to show more depressing than those eternal roadworks. Oh yes, London's bridges are falling down, falling down, falling down, London's bridges are falling down, my fair lady.

Worse, there is considerable evidence that Tower Bridge itself will shortly slide quietly into the Thames, which would certainly bring sorrow to lifelong Londoners like me and all those visitors who never got here. (No, dear, Madame Tussaud's would not be an adequate substitute.)

I am not joking now. Tower Bridge is one of the most ridiculous but splendid buildings ever put up in London or anywhere else (it is exactly 101 years old) and the traffic on it is shaking it to pieces. For some time, there has been a good lot of patching and stitching, but a firm of engineering works has been called in to give it the once-over, and heads have been shaking gloomily. (There has also been a lot of pie-in-the-sky, who started the rumour that there was going to be a wonderful area around Tower Bridge, filled with brand new playhouses and concert-halls?)

Who (I wouldn't be surprised if it was Ted Heath) gave the whistle for the giant 12-wheeled lorries that have destroyed most of our great cities' roads? And that is no exaggeration, for I have proof: I never learnt to drive, and I suffocate in the Tube, so the London taxi-men feast on me, and once upon a time I could read the newspapers as I went. No more.

I came back to Tower Bridge. The expert engineers say that if the volume of traffic thundering over that mighty but loony edifice continues, the great bridge will last only ten years, or 15 at best. And the same experts tell us that the Rotherhithe Tunnel (which is getting on for the same age as the Bridge) will die just as the Bridge does. How could it be otherwise when there are 35,000 vehicles going over the Bridge every day and 30,000 similarly going through the Tunnel? The grim truth

is what the Road Federation man says it is:

... the findings clearly show that structures designed for another age cannot meet the needs of a modern capital. This situation only serves to highlight a London-wide problem of growing demand being placed on increasingly decrepit infrastructure. It is a situation which will worsen in the future if remedial action is not taken. It is impossible to plan either for the long or short term with a transport infrastructure that is in an unreliable or even dangerous condition. It has been discovered that as the tide rises and falls and river-bed materials shift, the centre of the Rotherhithe tunnel is constantly lifting and settling while its ends remain in fixed positions. Though heavy protective pads have been sunk over the tunnel, the stresses threaten to rupture the ageing tubing, which dates from 1908.

Dear reader — would you be quite

happy going regularly through a tunnel beneath the water which is constantly lifting and settling and which dates from 1908? That's nothing. The grim truth is that the entire infrastructure upon which we live is sinking. When last measured, it was found that the entire Palace of Westminster is two millimetres lower than before; true, two millimetres are hardly enough to get John Major drowned, but beloved Big Ben himself has sunk three millimetres deeper. But "Daftest Buzzer of the Month Rosette" must surely go to the London Underground spokesman who said, "The problem we are finding is that the historic buildings in Westminster just aren't as well-built as the modern ones."

Ah, but what about the Leaning Tower of Pisa, eh? We have all seen pictures of it, and many of us have been there. Those who go there are invariably cornered, most genially, by the sellers of guide-books and nuts for the birds, but for a few more lire they can enjoy the Great Tower Joke. great monument has already stood for more than seven hundred years, and if it falls now, it can be proud of itself. I must have been one of the last to climb that wonderful tower, because in 1990 it was closed to the public — the danger was too great. Mind you, when I did climb that staircase I came down trembling: the famous tilt has an extraordinarily powerful pull; going towards the outside (there is nothing to hang on to) I thought I would be thrown over the edge. Incidentally, it is true, as I have heard, that no one has committed suicide by throwing himself off the Leaning Tower, by contrast with the substantial number of suicides from the Eiffel Tower? But hard! Yet again, a bevy of scientists has galloped to the rescue of the wonderful tower; this time it is

This takes the visitor a specified distance from the Tower; the visitor stands as if beside the Tower with hand outstretched; the vendor steps back and clicks his camera; when the visitor sees the picture it looks exactly as though he had been holding up the Tower. But someone will have to hold up the Tower.

It is one of the oldest monuments in Italy. Charlemagne came here, to what was a truly great city. It began in the 11th century, and the Pisans continued to add to their prize with great mosaics and bronze doors, frescoes, a beautiful baptistry, a cathedral, a Campo Santo, a cemetery. And then, the very last item was built — a bell tower. And that bell tower is the Leaning Tower of Pisa.

Galileo was born in Pisa, but almost all the stories of him are apocryphal; he didn't say "Eppur si muove", though he certainly thought it; he didn't throw stones off the Leaning Tower to demonstrate his theories. But you see, the Leaning Tower began to lean early in its life. Fall or no fall, the Pisans' great monument has already stood for more than seven hundred years, and if it falls now, it can be proud of itself.

I must have been one of the last to climb that wonderful tower, because in 1990 it was closed to the public — the danger was too great. Mind you, when I did climb that staircase I came down trembling: the famous tilt has an extraordinarily powerful pull; going towards the outside (there is nothing to hang on to) I thought I would be thrown over the edge. Incidentally, it is true, as I have heard, that no one has committed suicide by throwing himself off the Leaning Tower, by contrast with the substantial number of suicides from the Eiffel Tower? But hard! Yet again, a bevy of scientists has galloped to the rescue of the wonderful tower; this time it is

Philip Howard



True sports fans want to be on the side that's losing

The big match between Ian Botham and Imran Khan in the High Court is providing a midsummer entertainment. There is no point in complaining that it is childish. As friends say, the only difference between men and boys is the price of their toys — in this case the cost of the lawyers. One finds oneself in the unique and embarrassing posture of shouting for the lawyers on both teams. May their fees be huge (not that they need our cheers to secure that). But it is difficult to know whom else to cheer for in this international of the unsporting spirit. And may whoever wins never be called to bat again.

I always fail the Tebbit Test. I do not see how anybody who enjoys cricket could not have shouted for India in the recent series. They had the one player of genius in Tendulkar. But Ganguly also played his strokes with wit and style, and though Kumble was underbowed, a leg-spin bowler is so much more interesting to watch than our dreary intimidators. The Indians played as though they were enjoying themselves — literally, for sport. Our grim professionals never looked as though they were having a good time, except when Cork indulged in unpleasant playground triumphalism when (on the rare occasion) he took a wicket.

The hard professionals of English cricket, down the order from Atherton and Stewart back through Gooch and Gatting to Boycott (who is much more fun now as commentator than he ever was as the most boring and selfish opening bat in the history of the game) have been hard to cheer for. Gower, the only recent English player to make batting a pleasure rather than a profession, was of course dropped for not taking the game boringly enough. Naturally we cheer for Sri Lanka, who bat as though they would risk their lives for a perfect cover drive, rather than the cautious prodders and accumulators of bigger nations.

The trouble with the Tebbit Test is that it has no conception of what sport is for. Sport means shouting for the underdog, painting your face for David against Goliath, admiring a beautiful late cut even though it wins the match for your opponents, cheering for Yeovil Town against Manchester United.

But even I was worried when I found myself shouting for Germany against England in the semi-finals of Euro 96. Some of this anti-Tebbitism may have been a staid sort of grapes because Terry Venables had not selected me for his squad. Part of it was because I had to stay at the office to write a "Football comes Home" piece when England won. I tried rewriting when eventually Germany hacked it, substituting "Germany" for "England" and vice versa, but by that time cars were burning in Trafalgar Square. So it seemed an inappropriate day for a paean in praise of footy, and we spiked the whole idea.

In any case, the behaviour of the pitch of our players, manager and *Daily Mirror* was infinitely unsporting. Germany looked the better side and had the better supporters. They had lost their two best players. The German players confirmed their sporting appearance by allowing their PRs to take a full page in *The Times* after the final to thank us for being good hosts. Can you imagine our infantile and surly shower doing that? In the final, of course, I shouted for the Czech Republic on the principle of cheer for the underdog and hope for the unexpected.

So in the golf at Lytham St Anne's today, sportsmen will be shouting for players of style and danger, the Spaniard Severiano Ballesteros rather than the grim Amer-English professional Nick Faldo, who looks as glum as if he had a putter rammed up his 18th hole. It has been impossible to shout for England at rugby against much smaller nations (even Wales), while the officials are such mercenary and incompetent old farts, and the players are dreary kickers, bulldozers and percentage players, shutting out the flair of risk-taking artists such as Stuart Barnes and Jeremy Guscott.

So at the Olympics we Tebbit-traitors shall groan at the big batonations and the familiar pomp of their national anthems, and cheer for the little men and women from unknown countries who come from nowhere to take the gold. And as for the High Court, that has nothing to do with sport, except legally.

Royal stink

GAS MASKS are to hand in the Princess of Wales Conservatory at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Just days after the royal divorce was set in motion, a plant that hasn't flowered for more than 30 years is beginning to bloom: it will unleash a stench so fearsome that gardeners are already running for their smelling salts.

The Titan Arum, a native of Sumatra, is otherwise known as the "corpse flower" because of the suffocating stink of its metre-high flower. It last produced a flower at Kew in 1963, and on the previous occasion, in 1926, police had to be called in to control boisterous crowds of visitors egging each other on to sample its foul odour of putrid flesh.

To flower, the plant, grown out of an enormous tuber weighing 11kg, needs an exact combination of a dry winter followed by specific temperatures and humidity in summer. The bloom is expected in a week or so, but will wither after three days.

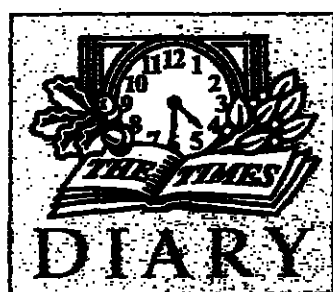
"I haven't smelt it myself, but it is supposed to be a mixture of rotting fish and burnt sugar; visitors will find it quite unpleasant," says Jenny Evans, assistant cura-

tor in charge of Kew's tropical section. "It's a bit of a problem. We are planning a one-way system for viewing, because we don't want people fighting to get near it and then being killed in the stampede to get away."

● A reformed character, Johnny Rotten. The Sex Pistols' lead singer, who encouraged his audience to spit at him during his shows in the 1970s, was agitated when a young fan revived the habit



Look but don't inhale



at a concert on Wednesday night in Shepherd's Bush, west London. "Yuk! that's disgusting," shouted Rotten before emptying his bottle of Perrier over the miscreant in a frenzied revenge.

Prime time

MORE good news for Joe Klein, the *Newsweek* writer who recently unmasked himself as the "Anonymous" author of *Primary Colours*, the barely fictionalised account of President Clinton's 1992 campaign: Fidel Castro is a big fan.

The Cuban leader was spotted on a recent flight stuck into the closing pages of *Primary Colours*, doubtless doing some background work on his opponent during the present sanctions fracas. Despite his resolute refusal to speak Eng-

lish, Castro is known to understand it when important works of fiction are at hand.

Left out?

IS Derek Hatton planning to bring new Labour? I ask because the Liverpool firebrand spent an evening deep in conversation with a couple of Tony Blair's top team of Labour MPs at a party thrown on Wednesday by the *Sunday Express*.

Hatton said he was done with



"I know Di and Fergie are here somewhere"

politics: "But I tell you, I like some of what Tony Blair's doing. Yeah, new Labour's fine." I understand Despy was particularly impressed by the arrival of Peter Mandelson in a chauffeur-driven Jaguar.

Dog-gone

STILL MISSING: one border collie answering to the name of Peter and with a faux-aristocratic languor inherited from his owner, the actor Anthony Andrews.

Local newspapers around Salisbury have been carrying advertisements asking for the return of the nine-year-old black-and-tan dog, which went missing recently with his friend, a Jack Russell called Skippy.

A sizeable reward is on offer. "We have had dogs all our lives," says Andrews, his ears visibly wilting, "but Peter is probably the most important. He has spanned generations. We are all devastated."

Mr Pud

IN CHIGWELL, Essex, the excitement is hard to bear. One of Hollywood's biggest stars has let it be known that he likes the place and wants a property in the locality.

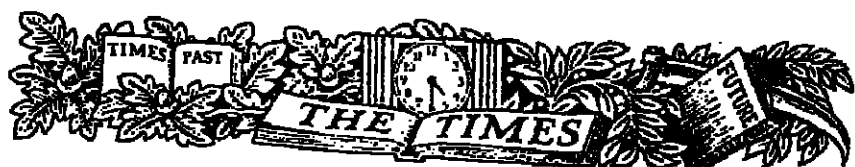


Chigwell's big man, Brando

Marlon Brando, a man for whom man-sized hankies would never be enough, dropped in for lunch unannounced to Ye Olde King's Head in Chigwell on Tuesday with his two daughters, his grandson and his minder. The oversize family party was ushered to the pub's Country Cavern and then to a quiet booth where Brando lapped up several lemonades and a pork curry, large helping.

"Marlon spent two hours here," says a regular. "A hell of a lot of lemonade." And puddings?

P.H.S



FOLLOW THE LEADER

Labour must be tough on strikes and the causes of strikes

The Labour Party should be showing a little more of the traditional trade union virtue of solidarity. That does not mean standing shoulder to shoulder on the picket line with the members of Aslef and the RMT who have so wantonly damaged the capital's interests by their strike on the London Underground. Labour should, instead, be vigorously supporting its leader. Tony Blair is right to want the Tube strike called off. He has been ill-served so far by the grudging words of Robin Cook and the sullen silence of John Prescott. If Mr Blair's party is to speak credibly for the citizen and against vested interests at the next election then it should... audibly and enthusiastically... support him now.

The strike is the bluntest of instruments and these strikers have the weakest of cases. London Underground have offered Tube drivers an increase of 3.2 per cent which would take basic salaries to £25,436, a higher figure than that paid to the multi-lingual drivers on advanced Eurostar trains. The strikers are holding out for a reduction in their working week by one hour to 37.5 hours. For the sake of an hour a week these handsomely-paid men paralyse a city. The cost to commerce, inconvenience to the public and damage to the capital's tourist reputation are incalculable. Arbitration is available but the unions want confrontation. Seldom in the last ten years can industrial muscle have been so crudely directed with such slender justification.

Recognising the scale of anger in London, and aware of the marginal seats clustered along its commuter belt, it is understandable that Mr Blair should have intervened in the dispute. His decision to have David Blunkett, Labour's Education and Employment spokesman, call for a return to work is an astute response to public feeling. Mr Blair's stance will have a resonance outside the capital. It is intended to demonstrate there is steel behind Labour's rhetoric of

"fairness, not favours" towards trade unions. It is part of the broader strategy of distancing New Labour from interest groups and trying to identify it with the citizen which Tony Blair has imported from Bill Clinton's new Democrats.

Unfortunately for Mr Blair, his own lack of trade union roots and the reaction of his colleagues have undermined his efforts to end the strike. Asked if he supported his leader Robin Cook could only mutter that, "I share collective responsibility for anything any of us say." John Prescott, according to one colleague, had to be "scraped off the wall" when he heard the news. Mr Prescott may enjoy RMT sponsorship but he is also Mr Blair's deputy. He stands higher in the affections of the unions than any other member of the Labour leadership. Once before, at the 1993 Labour Party Conference on the principle of One Member, One Vote, Mr Prescott used his authority to persuade the labour movement to adapt to reality and support its leader. In the interests of his party, and the travelling public, he should again use his influence and echo his leader's call for a return to work.

If, however, Mr Blair wants Labour to be a truly modern party he must be not only tough on strikes, but also tough on the causes of strikes. It is no coincidence that the industrial unrest which has caused such misery this summer, on the Underground and in the Royal Mail, occurs in the public sector. The Tube drivers are insulated from the consequences of their action by their state-subsidised employer in a way that the British Airways pilots who drew back from a strike are not. Legislation has helped promote industrial peace but what has guaranteed it is the discipline of the marketplace. Labour is right to call for arbitration now, but if its leaders are now genuine champions of the consumer they should also be arguing for enterprise in the future.

ATLANTA'S HOUR

From Southern defeats and segregation to Olympic City

In the early morning tomorrow a spectacular ceremony will signify the opening of the centenary Olympic Games. For the next two weeks the eyes of the world will be on Atlanta, where a drama involving 29 sports and 271 events will be played out — a far cry from the amateur Athens affair of 1896. With the Americans in charge, a few matters may be certain: it will be meticulously organised and make a tidy profit. This is no small achievement in itself: Montreal, the host city 20 years ago, was virtually bankrupted by the experience.

This is the second time in 12 years that the Games have been staged in the United States. Los Angeles was the venue in 1984. That might strike neutrals as dull or unfair. The two cities are superficially similar. Both have grown beyond recognition since the war. In each case expansion has come from the sun-belt shift in America's population — fuelled by the rise of modern communications and the invention of the air conditioner that made life bearable. Both are capitals of regional empires: Los Angeles that of the entertainment industry; Atlanta the commercial and cultural centre of the thriving New South.

Beyond that though, they are quite separate — above all on the question of race. Los Angeles is a vast sprawl but seemingly soulless with it, a gigantic set of suburbs linked by freeways without much of a common core. Inner LA is almost exclusively the preserve of the poorest minorities, especially black citizens: community relations are ever on the edge of an explosion. In their different ways the riots of 1992, triggered by the

Rodney King beating, and the trial and acquittal of OJ Simpson last year, both demonstrated this. Black politicians can occasionally reach the top, as mayor Tom Bradley did, but the power structure is overwhelmingly white with an increasingly important Asian-American element.

Atlanta is different. The former railway town that now sits at the intersection of six interstate highways, and boasts the best and busiest airport in America, was the cradle of the civil rights revolution, the home and political base of Martin Luther King. Before then it had a turbulent past. The city was burnt to the ground by General Sherman during the War between the States and became a seedbed of southern resentments over the next century, only recently, and reluctantly, abandoning its rigid segregation.

But Atlanta has seen a social revolution over the past three decades. The slogan "A city too busy to hate" is an extravagant claim but not outrageous by the standards of American cities. Integration is clearly visible in its politics, not least in the achievements of then-mayor Andrew Young in capturing this tournament. That spirit is also present and getting stronger in the corporate domain.

Atlanta is the spiritual capital both of Black America as well as the economically self-confident New South of Newt Gingrich. The overwhelming preponderance of African-Americans among their track athletes makes the setting all the more appropriate. This, not the popular cliché of a Coca-Cola Olympics is what will give these Games a special flavour.

VENI, VIDI — GLUG, GLUG, GLUG

When Julius Caesar ruled the waves — or tried to

The wreck of a Roman ship on the seabed a mile off Hayling Island could help us rewrite more than marine archaeology. If carbon dating and dendrochronology of its foreign wood establish that this is the genuine *navis*, the find could revive interest in two fascinating questions. Why did the Roman Empire fall? Why did the British Empire rise?

Romans hated the sea. Because of this hatred, Rome was an absurdly inconvenient place from which to run an empire. Every army had to march long leagues to the top of Italy before making a sinister or a dextrous turn to do any conquering. Unsurprisingly, the Romans soon tired of this.

In his famous set-piece in *On the Republic*, Cicero praised Romulus for his wisdom in avoiding the coastal sites of Greek cities when he founded Rome. In this way he kept his capital city clear of all the corruption and danger that the sea stands for. Roman poets were plangent about the dangers of sea travel. When they had to fight at sea, Romans endeavoured to make it as like the land as possible with grappling-irons and drawbridges. Lucan defined Epicurean happiness (and perhaps *Edenfreude*) as standing on a cliff in a storm watching others in peril on the sea, and thinking, "There but for the grace of terra firma go I."

Of course, for some tasks, like invading Britain, ships were unavoidable. In such cases Roman leaders believed, like Colin Powell centuries later, in the military doctrine of massive deployment of force.

They insisted on the largest possible numbers of ships — they knew that a momentary caprice of jealous Neptune could turn a claim of *Veni, Vidi, Vici* into a cry of *glug, glug, glug*.

Romans may have feared the sea but there was the need for luxury imports. The Monte Testaccio (Broken Pot Mount) outside Rome was made up of 53 million imported olive oil amphorae deliberately broken after their contents were transferred into larger storage vessels. It is a kilometre around at the base and represents an oil lake of 6,000 million litres. The Roman plebs lived on imported corn, 150,000 tons a year shipped from Egypt, but twice as much again from Sicily and North Africa. This is a rare statistic from the ancient world.

The wealthy Roman dressed in wool from Miletus and linen from Egypt. His wife wore silks from China, decorated herself with pearls from India, and made up with cosmetics from Arabia. He seasoned his food with Indian pepper and sweetened it with Athenian honey, and had it served on dishes of Spanish silver by British slaves. He washed it down with Sicilian wine decanted from Syrian glass.

So hatred of the sea did not extend to hating imports by sea. This Roman shipwreck is a reminder that before Britain learned to rule the waves Rome had a good try at doing so. But it would still be interesting to find out in which direction the ship was sailing when it went down, and who made up its crew. Perhaps they were Roman Britons, the first seadogs of Empire.

Trusting the trust on 'The Observer'

From the Editor of the South China Morning Post

Sir, The current flurry of words over *The Observer* and the behaviour of the Scott Trust, in which Anthony Howard joined this week ("A paper without a cause", July 16), may prove to be an eddy in a journalistic teaspoon. But, despite having recently suffered the very fate predicted by Philip Hope-Wallace of being sacked by a liberal paper around Christmas, I found Mr Howard's doubts about whether *Lonrho* was any worse an owner than the Scott Trust surprising.

Lonrho's ownership saw *The Observer* going to the brink of extinction in a merger with the *Independent on Sunday*. It saw an annual loss rising to more than £10 million, and circulation falling by 10 per cent a year. Above all, it produced a paper where, whatever excuses were dreamed up at the bar of the Garrick Club, most senior journalists went along with the Faustian deal of following Tiny Rowland's agenda, when he so wished, in return for *Lonrho* stamping their pay and expenses cheques. The muddle, mess, self-deception and self-indulgence which met us when the *Guardian* group took over *The Observer* in 1993 was extraordinary.

Whatever one's personal feelings about the behaviour of the Scott Trust and the rewriting of recent history at the *Guardian* group, it was the Trust — described by Mr Howard as well-meaning but crass amateurs — that gave *The Observer* back the self-respect which those who accepted *Lonrho*'s passport to a cushy life had forfeited.

Yours faithfully,
JONATHAN FENBY
(Editor, *The Observer*, 1993-95),
Editor, *South China Morning Post*,
29 Floor, Dorset House,
979 King's Road,
Quarry Bay, Hong Kong,
July 18.

From Mr Andrew Jaspán

Sir, Leaving to one side his rather gratuitous insults, I am delighted that Anthony Howard largely agrees with my assessment (*Media*, July 10) of why *The Observer* is in the mess it is and why its owners have proven themselves to be largely unfit to restore its fortunes.

Yours,
ANDREW JASPÁN
(Editor, *The Observer*, 1995-96),
2 Glasslyn Road, N8,
July 16.

From the Chairman, The Scott Trust

Sir, I'm sure the Scott Trust has plenty to learn from Anthony Howard about running liberal newspapers. How could one fail to be impressed by such a famous pillar of *The Observer* from the days when it was owned by *Lonrho*?

It is hard to know which of his credentials to respect more: the high principle he showed when he worked for Tiny Rowland, or the detachment he now laudably brings, as a member of the *Times* payroll, to discussion of one of its direct commercial competitors.

Mr Howard says the Trust are amateurs. This is a funny way to describe a body whose collective editorial experience, mostly in senior positions, adds up to about 150 years, and its managerial experience to at least 100 years. It has run *The Guardian* with manifest professionalism, and is bringing the same quality to the paper over whose dismal fall from grace Mr Howard presided as deputy editor.

Yours sincerely,
HUGO YOUNG,
Chairman, The Scott Trust,
The Guardian,
119 Farringdon Road, EC1,
July 16.

From Mr Victor Olliver

Sir, Anthony Howard attributes the decline of *The Observer* to a drying up of heroic liberal causes, yet I suspect the truth has a lot more to do with *rhininess* than anything else.

Relative to *The Sunday Times*'s expanding multi-sectional girth through the Eighties, *The Observer* gradually took on a pinched, anorexic look, failing the first test of value for money as it lay wanly by the side of its fatter and fatter competitor.

A quality Sunday paper must promise to get one through the bulk of an idle day, a selling point that renders such quaint considerations as editorial politics or "causes" of secondary importance.

Yours faithfully,
VICTOR OLLIVER,
3 Bessborough Terrace,
Lancing, West Sussex,
July 16.

British history

From Mr Simon Ellis

Sir, I would suggest to Nick Tate, the Government's curriculum chief, that students of history (report, July 17) gain a better understanding of present-day issues from studying the rise of America and Russia as superpowers, China in revolution, and the demise of apartheid in South Africa than topics like Henry VIII and Oliver Cromwell, which are really no more relevant than Jack and the Beanstalk or Robin Hood.

Yours sincerely,
SIMON ELLIS,
38 Forest View, E4,
July 17.

Compromise and concession as way forward for Ulster

From Sir David Goodall

Sir, It is difficult to understand the Government's determination to treat the routing of the Orange march at Drumcree as a matter to be decided by the Chief Constable alone, on purely operational grounds, without regard to its political consequences.

The resulting spectacle of the RUC, backed up by British troops, penning nationalists into their homes and bludgeoning them off the streets to make way for a provocative Orange march, has not just played into the hands of the IRA. It has alienated even the most moderate elements within the minority community and revived all their doubts about ever being allowed to achieve "equal legitimacy" with Unionism as long as Northern Ireland remains part of the United Kingdom. It is a spectacle of which we in Britain, as well as Unionist leaders, should be ashamed.

What may be less evident, at least in Dublin, is the extent to which the creation of the "pan-nationalist consensus", and what has looked to Unionists like unremitting pressure from the Irish Government and the SDLP for concessions to Sinn Féin, have sharpened the sense of insecurity and resentment within the Unionist community and thus helped to generate the aggressive intransigence of Drumcree. There are lessons here for Dublin and the SDLP as well as for London and the Unionists.

It is illusory to think (as your leader of July 15 seemed to imply) that the search for a political settlement could take the form of a return to constitutional immobility with a few human-rights trimmings as a sop to nationalists.

The demographic balance alone makes it clear that no system of government for Northern Ireland will command the necessary level of acceptance from both communities unless it includes a significant Irish dimension as well as accommodating the Unionist determination that the Province should remain within the United Kingdom.

Power of PR

From Mr Michael Rowe

Sir, Like every profession, including journalism, public relations has its underperformers, but to describe it as iniquitous, as Giles Coren does ("A matter of trust or tricks", *Media*, July 17), is unduly harsh.

Journalists and PR professionals have more in common than Mr Coren might wish to admit. No PR professional expects that a press release sent to 100 publications will be published by them all, any more than a journalist can expect his article to be read by every reader of the newspaper.

A recent press release we sent on behalf of a client to all the national newspapers was used by about half of them, and equally spread between tabloids and quality; if journalists do not agree what a good news story is, then how can the humble PR professional predict with 100 per cent accuracy?

PRs need journalists but journalists need us too; although of course they would never admit it.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL ROWE
(Managing Director),
Charlton Communications,
70 Chalk Farm Road, NW1,
July 17.

From Professor Sam Black

Sir, Media relations is an important part of public relations, but it is only one aspect, and sending press releases

to newspapers is only one small part of our professional work. In Britain, as in most other parts of the world, there is a growing understanding of the valuable part good, ethical public relations can play in promoting the success and efficiency of organisations of all kinds.

A student studying for a BA Honours degree in public relations spends three years on the theory and practice of a management discipline which is quite unrecognisable in your article. Yours sincerely,
SAM BLACK
(Honorary Professor of Public Relations, University of Stirling),
Kewick House, 3 Greenway, N20,
July 17.

From Mr Matthew Freud
Sir, Your picture caption accompanying Giles Coren's article states that I "often commiserate as many column inches as [my] clients".

On average, Freud Communications' clients attract over 1,000 column inches per day, whereas my personal total in the last ten years do not add up to 100.

This is perhaps further evidenced by the fact that you were unable to find a photograph of me from the current decade. If anyone is interested, I have put on some weight, but my hairline remains mercifully intact.

Yours faithfully,
MATTHEW FREUD (Chairman),
Freud Communications,
93 Newman Street, W1,
July 17.

From Mr Peter Cadbury
Sir, Bernard Levin would appear to be out of step with public opinion ("Howard's greasy pole", July 12).

Two years ago I resigned from the Conservative Party because I thought the Government was doing too little to combat crime and protect the average household (report, August 30, 1994). At that time almost anyone who tried to apprehend a burglar or a mugger, or even in some cases where they made a "citizen's arrest" for kidnapping, was prosecuted for assault.

Over the last two years, thanks to Michael Howard, more criminals are kept off the streets, fewer are allowed on bail or parole to repeat their offences, and guidelines have been published advising the police not to prosecute innocent citizens for taking the law into their own hands. This must be applauded as a benefit to the law-abiding member of the public.

Prevention is better than conviction, and here again Michael Howard is leading the way in advocating closed-circuit television for areas where crime is prevalent. After the recent atrocities at schools it must make sense to provide CCTV for all schools where there is a risk of an intruder. I personally am presenting CCTV to a few local schools and I only wish I could afford to supply them all.

I know nothing about Michael Howard's ambition to be Prime Minister, but on his recent record I would encourage him to apply.

Yours sincerely,
PETER CADBURY,
Upton Grey Lodge, Upton Grey,
Nr Basingstoke, Hampshire,
July 12.

Cuban liberty

From Mr C. J. Jacob

Sir, In your leading article, "Pigs again" (July 16), you rightly castigate the Helms-Burton Act, that misguided attempt to coerce the international community into supporting United States policy against Cuba.

You are not alone in your censure. Even the Congressional draftsman seems to have expressed contempt for the duty imposed on him, and rather wittily so. Why else give the legislation its mock-Marxist title "Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act", if not for the sake of the deterrent acronym CUL De SAc?

Yours faithfully,
C. J. JACOB,
5 Sycamore Avenue,
Chandlers Ford,
Eastleigh, Hampshire,
July 16.

Who art in Heaven?

From Mr Roger Sydenham

Sir, Your report (July 17) that the Church of England is to remove references to God as male from its prayer book reminds me of an American friend, a Unitarian, who told me that he always prefaced his prayers with "To whom it may concern".

Yours faithfully,
ROGER SYDENHAM,
Ramillies, Friston,
Saxmundham, Suffolk,
July 18.

Business letters, page 27

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

NEWS

Mystery of explosion on TWA 800

Two main theories for the cause of a crash which killed all 228 people aboard a TWA jumbo jet shortly after take-off from New York were being urgently pursued by investigators: a catastrophic engine disintegration which sprayed red hot shards of metal into highly combustible fuel — or a bomb.

President Clinton emphasised that the reason for the disaster was unknown. "Let's wait until we see the evidence," he said as he hailed rescuers. Pages 1, 2, 3

Children hurt as bus hits bridge

At least 48 schoolchildren were injured when the roof of their double-decker bus was ripped off in a collision with a low bridge at Runcorn, Cheshire. Fifteen of the children, aged between five and ten, were seriously hurt and five were said to be in a critical condition with head injuries. Page 1

Major's orders

John Major gave Conservative MPs their battle orders, telling them to stop being "bystanders or commentators" and to become advocates for the party and the policies in which they passionately believed. Page 1

Child killer jailed

The man who raped and murdered seven-year-old Sophie Hook was given three life sentences by a judge who called for action to give children greater protection. Pages 1, 7

Heritage chief goes

Chris Green, the chief executive of English Heritage, resigned following a report into "alleged irregularities". Page 1

Birt accused

MPs accused John Birt, the Director-General of the BBC, of being dictatorial, arrogant and running the BBC like "a kind of Tsar". Page 4

Going home

A woman evicted from the remote farm her family has occupied for 500 years could be back home next week after the intervention of a benefactor. Page 5

Imran offer rejected

Ian Botham told the High Court that he had rejected Imran Khan's proposal to settle their dispute with an open letter to *The Times* because he did not regard it as an apology. Page 5

Search for Caesar's invasion fleet

A search for ancient wrecks, including the remains of Julius Caesar's invasion fleet, has been launched by scientists using advanced sonar able to "peer" through mud. Researchers from Southampton University and the Hampshire and Wight Trust for Maritime Archaeology are mapping the sea bed in the Solent, a major seaway since primitive times. Page 10

Low-flying acquittal

An RAF pilot whose low-flying aircraft struck and killed a soldier, allegedly in a game of "chicken", was acquitted of manslaughter. Page 6

Super bugs

The growing number of bacteria which cannot be treated with any existing antibiotic may cause a global health crisis. Page 9

Tube strike anger

The Labour leadership was split over Tony Blair's demand for London Tube workers to call off their strike. John Prescott was furious about the tough line taken by his Shadow Cabinet colleague David Blunkett. Page 11

KGB on CD-ROM

The KGB has broken a 70 year code of silence with the release of a slick, interactive CD-ROM depicting the defection of Kim Philby, Guy Burgess and Donald Maclean. Page 14

Rifle attack

The National Rifle Association threatened to withhold its endorsement of Bob Dole after he retreated from opposing a ban on assault weapons. Page 14

French scandal

The corruption scandal that is haunting France took two new turns with the decision to remand in custody the head of the state railways and the arrest of the Mayor of Cannes. Page 15



Pc Steve Cleaver tests the latest Essex Police patrol boat at Southend. The 55 mph jet-ski will be used to chase skiers who ride dangerously

BUSINESS

Watchdogs: Regulators of the electricity and gas industries face Parliamentary scrutiny in an investigation that could lead to their jobs being combined. Page 25

Sky high: Three executives will share £18 million from the sale of Belfast International Airport. They invested £50,000 each in a buyout two years ago. Page 23

Economy: Alan Greenspan, chairman of the US Federal Reserve, reassured markets that the Fed would raise interest rates if inflation pressures looked like increasing. Page 23

Markets: The FT-SE 100 rose 35.2 to 3693.4. Sterling was unchanged at 84.8 after a fall from \$1.5486 to \$1.5450 but a rise from DM2.3012 to DM2.3056. Page 26

SPORT

Golf: Paul Broadhurst equalled the course record of 65, six under par, to take the lead on the opening day of the Open. Page 44

Olympic Games: Steve Redgrave, the oarsman seeking his fourth gold medal, has been given the unique honour of carrying the flag for Britain for the second time at an opening ceremony. Page 40

Cricket: Twenty-five wickets fell on the opening day of the Cheltenham festival, where Gloucestershire finished 168 runs ahead of Gloucestershire. Page 37

Racing: The British Horseracing Board will not take over the running of the Tote but is to have regular meetings with the Home Secretary to discuss the sport's problems. Page 39

ARTS

Biggest show on earth: As the Olympics open, the spotlight falls on the showmen who have devised the spectacular ceremonies for the world's biggest athletics celebrations. Page 31

More Jane: Yet another Jane Austen dramatisation comes to life — at the King's Head in Islington where *Emma* is being staged. Page 31

Welcome, world: The World (World of Music and Dance) festival, in Reading this weekend, is presenting an eclectic gathering of international musical talent. Page 33

Pop on Friday: Caitlin Moran on the misadventure of the T-in-the-Park rock festival; David Sinclair on albums from the Black Crowes and Toni Braxton. Pages 32, 33

FEATURES

Valerie Grove hears Matthew Bannister, the new head of BBC radio, speak of maintaining Radio 4's intelligence while calling Chris Evans the most talented entertainer in British broadcasting. Page 17

When we are gone: Sir Isaiah Berlin, the philosopher, talks to Anna Howard about death. "I'd rather like to think that there is a world after death and that we shall all meet in it people we love. But I don't believe it." Page 16

A module muddle: Do pupils prefer one big A-level exam at the end of two years, or to be continually examined? Page 35

Fantasy world: Children need to explore their imaginations, and going to the theatre allows them to do just that. Page 35

THE PAPERS

It is to be hoped that Mr Lebed and all the other pretenders to the crown would remember that the Russian people, in spite of their hardships, voted for reform and democracy. In the meantime, we wish Mr Yeltsin a speedy recovery. — *Wall Street Journal*

In Corsica it is necessary first of all to re-establish the state of law. The explosion of a booby-trapped car Bastia having shown that the situation is becoming uncontrollable, the Government must smash the terrorist escalation. — *Le Figaro*

TONGUEBROW

IN THE TIMES

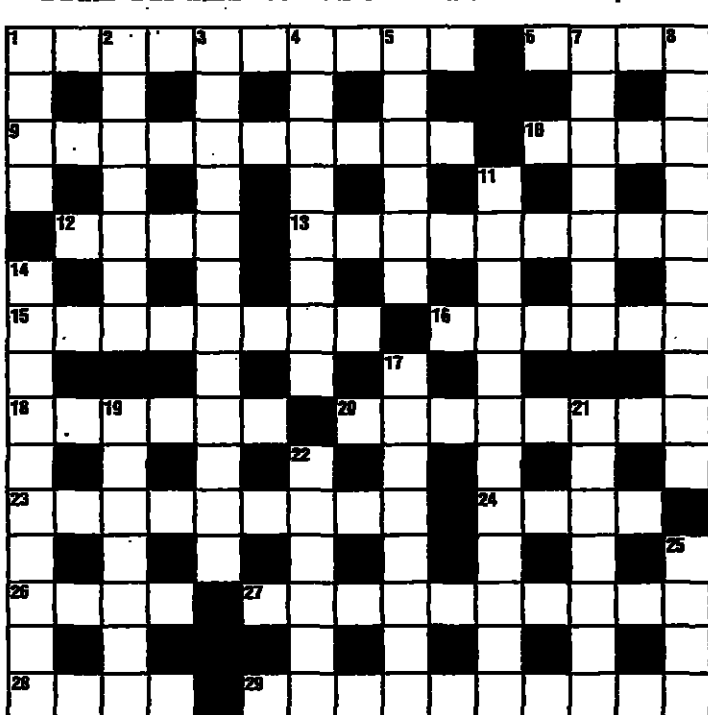
■ **LIFE'S A PEACH**
How James and the Giant Peach became a fairy-tale inheritance for Roald Dahl's daughter, Lucy (left)

SCREEN DREAMS

Is this the right time for small investors to help Britain's film industry?



THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,224



- ACROSS**
- Longfellow's name, say, for woodland creature (4,6).
 - Major film shot quickly by English (4).
 - Indirectly support man on board (6-4).
 - Part of Shakespearean plot (4).
 - Gem that's not right for a ring (4).
 - Discredit a place offering bargains? (9).
 - Mother has to reduce to squeeze into fur (8).
 - Boring stuff spelt e.g. Mark's written about (6).
 - Work hard in attempt to get prize (6).
 - Pains associated with minor rash (8).
 - Within live broadcast, term for fanatic (9).
- DOWN**
- Publish a column (4).
 - Poor clue in paper upset colonel, we hear (7).
 - Chap's expression of disgust, involved in subsequent crime (12).
 - Engineers joining slow-moving carriage and train (8).
 - A group of nine top men one bad (6).
 - Threaten, say, Liverpool goal (7).
 - Drink tea with lemon, for example, crossing America (10).
 - A frivolous sort cut down on roughage, I admitted (12).
 - To conceal affair you have to tell tales a bit (10).
 - Eats pill, disguised as a sweet (8).
 - Bird with gold top and gold middle with brown fringes (7).
 - Asian festival's name (7).
 - Amazon river — taking a journey after six (6).
 - Finally, perhaps, what may be an eyesore? (4).

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours in day, dial 0336 401 followed by appropriate code.

Region	Code
London	701
West of London	702
East of London	703
South East	704
South West	705
West Midlands	706
East Midlands	707
North East	708
North West	709
Yorkshire	710
East of Yorkshire	711
West of Yorkshire	712
North of Yorkshire	713
South of Yorkshire	714
East of Yorkshire	715
West of Yorkshire	716
North of Yorkshire	717
South of Yorkshire	718
East of Yorkshire	719
West of Yorkshire	720
North of Yorkshire	721
South of Yorkshire	722
East of Yorkshire	723
West of Yorkshire	724
North of Yorkshire	725
South of Yorkshire	726
East of Yorkshire	727
West of Yorkshire	728
North of Yorkshire	729
South of Yorkshire	730

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic forecasts, 24 hours in day, dial 0336 401 followed by appropriate code.

Region	Code
London	731
West of London	732
East of London	733
South East	734
South West	735
West Midlands	736
East Midlands	737
North East	738
North West	739
Yorkshire	740
East of Yorkshire	741
West of Yorkshire	742
North of Yorkshire	743
South of Yorkshire	744
East of Yorkshire	745
West of Yorkshire	746
North of Yorkshire	747
South of Yorkshire	748
East of Yorkshire	749
West of Yorkshire	750
North of Yorkshire	751
South of Yorkshire	752
East of Yorkshire	753
West of Yorkshire	754
North of Yorkshire	755
South of Yorkshire	756
East of Yorkshire	757
West of Yorkshire	758
North of Yorkshire	759
South of Yorkshire	760

HOURS OF DARKNESS

First quarter July 23
London 9:07 am to 5:08 am
Bristol 9:16 am to 5:17 am
Cardiff 9:25 am to 5:26 am
Manchester 9:25 pm to 5:35 am
Perth 9:25 pm to 5:35 am

FORECAST

General: England and Wales will have patchy mist, soon burning away to give most places a dry, very warm, sunny day. Eastern coastal districts fresher, with low cloud at times. Scotland and Northern Ireland will have some cloud but be mostly dry and warm. In the far north and northwest of Scotland the cloud may be thick enough to give the odd spot of rain.

London, SE, Cent S, SW, England, Midlands, Ch'ts, Wales: Overcast cloud should clear. A dry, sunny day with light E or NE. Very warm, max 25C (77F).

East Angles, E, NE England, Borders: Overcast mist clearing then variable amounts of cloud with sunny periods. Wind light E. Fresh, max 21C (70F).

Wales, NW, Cent, N England, Lakes, Isle, SW Scotland, G'ow: Mist clearing. Dry, long sunny spells. Wind light mainly S. Very warm, max 25C (77F).

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm, b=bright, c=cloud, d=driest, do=drizzle, du=dund, f=fair, fg=fog, g=gale, h=halt, i=rain, sh=showers, si=sleet, sn=snow, s=sun, l=thunder

Region	Temp	Wind	Cloud
London	15.2	12	5
West of London	15.2	12	5
East of London	15.2	12	5
South East	15.2	12	5
South West	15.2	12	5
West Midlands	15.2	12	5
East Midlands	15.2	12	5
North East	15.2	12	5
North West	15.2	12	5
Yorkshire	15.2	12	5
East of Yorkshire	15.2	12	5
West of Yorkshire	15.2	12	5
North of Yorkshire	15.2	12	5
South of Yorkshire	15.2	12	5
East of Yorkshire	15.2	12	5
West of Yorkshire	15.2	12	5
North of Yorkshire	15.2	12	5
South of Yorkshire	15.2	12	5
East of Yorkshire	15.2	12	5
West of Yorkshire	15.2	12	5
North of Yorkshire	15.2	12	5
South of Yorkshire	15.2	12	5

ABROAD

Region	Temp	Wind	Cloud
London	15.2	12	5
West of London	15.2	12	5
East of London	15.2	12	5
South East	15.2	12	5
South West	15.2	12	5
West Midlands	15.2	12	5
East Midlands	15.2	12	5
North East	15.2	12	5
North West	15.2	12	5
Yorkshire	15.2	12	5
East of Yorkshire	15.2	12	5
West of Yorkshire	15.2	12	5
North of Yorkshire	15.2	12	5
South of Yorkshire	15.2	12	5
East of Yorkshire	15.2	12	5
West of Yorkshire	15.2	12	5
North of Yorkshire	15.2	12	5
South of Yorkshire	15.2	12	5
East of Yorkshire	15.2	12	5
West of Yorkshire	15.2	12	5
North of Yorkshire	15.2	12	5
South of Yorkshire	15.2	12	5

NOON TODAY

Changes to chart below from noon. Low B will push N and S. Low D will spread NE and become indicated. High T will slowly drift E with little change. High F will be slow-moving with little change.

HIGH TIDES

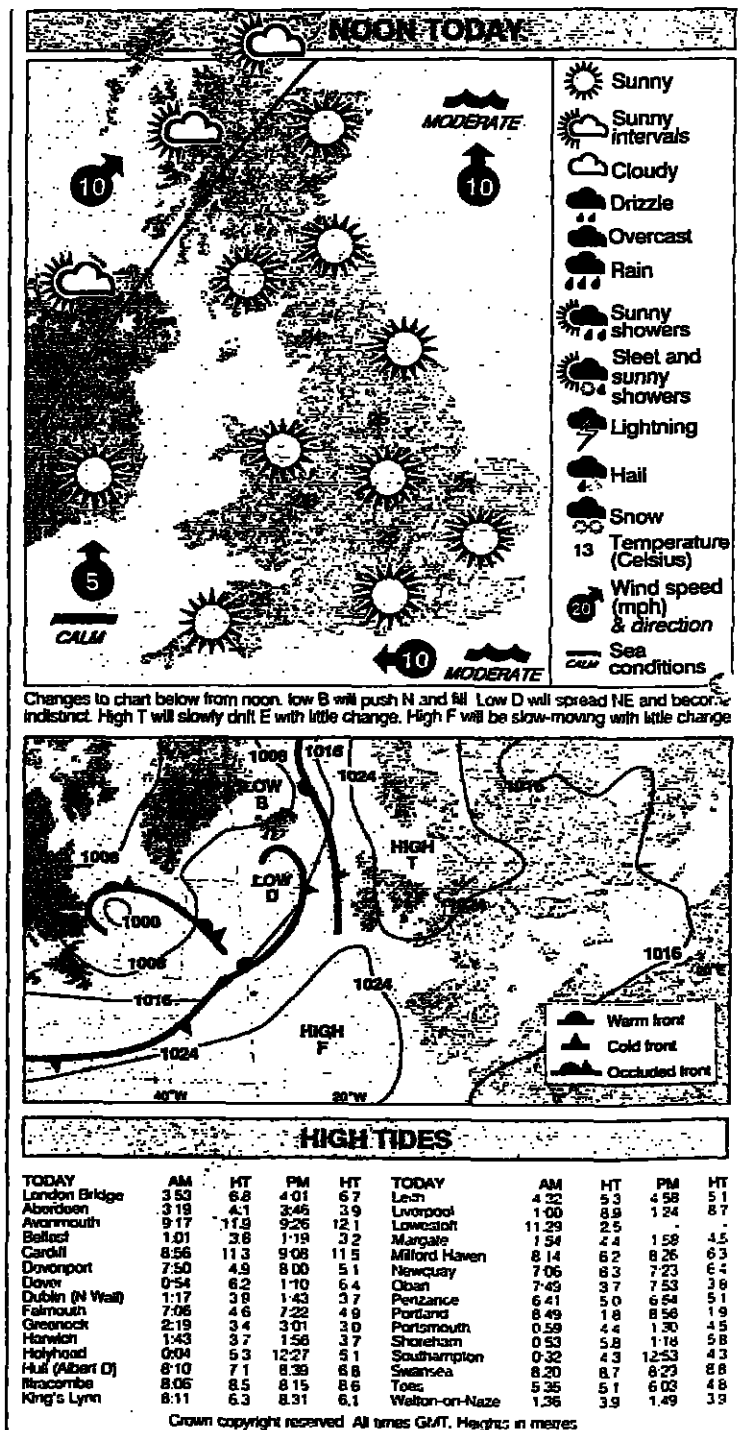
Location	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	3:50	6.6	4:01	6.7
Aberdeen	3:19	6.1	3:46	6.9
Cardiff	3:17	6.0	3:44	6.8
Belfast	1:01	3.6	1:19	3.2
London	6:56	11.3	9:06	11.5
Newcastle	7:50	4.8	8:00	5.1
Dover	0:54	6.2	1:10	6.4
Dublin (N West)	1:17	3.8	1:42	3.7
Falmouth	7:06	4.6	7:22	4.9
Glasgow	2:19	3.4	2:36	3.6
Harwich	1:43	3.7	1:56	3.7
Holyhead	0:04	5.3	12:27	5.1
Isle of Man	6:10	7.1	6:30	6.8
Manchester	8:06	8.5	8:15	8.6
Queen's Quay	8:11	6.3	8:31	6.1
Wexford	1:36	3.9	1:49	3.9

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day time: Causton Sands, Devon, 28C (82F). Lowest day time: Far Loe, 14C (57F). Highest night time: no rainfall. 0°C: highest sunrise: Manchester, 16°C.

RNLI RESCUE UPDATE - 19 JULY 1996

Total number of lives saved so far this year: 282
Total number of lifeboat launches so far this year: 1,595
Cost to RNLI per day: £173,000
Cost to taxpayer: £0
To make a donation, telephone: 0800 543210



HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day time: Causton Sands, Devon, 28C (82F). Lowest day time: Far Loe, 14C (57F). Highest night time: no rainfall. 0°C: highest sunrise: Manchester, 16°C.

Green... on... rally...

Tomkins' loyal faces investor

Lifeboats

Royal National Lifeboat Institution

Reg. Charity No. 206651

ARTS 31-33

Nations united by music: that's the wonder of Womad

EDUCATION 35

A new danger to the sixth form?

SPORT 37-44

Shaq's fortunes soar with \$120m deal in Atlanta

TELEVISION AND RADIO
Pages 42, 43

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

FRIDAY JULY 19 1996

Home loans increase as credit falls

By Robert Miller and Janet Bush

FRESH evidence that the steady recovery in the housing market continues was counter-balanced yesterday by an apparent cooling of demand for other types of consumer credit, suggesting that Britain is not headed for an inflationary consumer boom.

Figures from building societies show that gross and net mortgage advances in June were at their highest level since the end of the stamp duty holiday in August 1992 on a seasonally unadjusted basis. The value of home loans approved by societies last month was £4.1 billion compared with £3.6 billion in June last year. Monthly mortgage lending by banks, however, fell to £604 million in June from £696 million in May.

Based on the housing market data now available for the first half of 1996 leading home loan lenders, such as the Halifax and Woolwich building societies, are sticking with their recently increased forecasts for house prices to rise by about 5 per cent over the course of the year. Lenders are so optimistic that the housing market recovery will last that they are already beginning to withdraw many of their deep-discounted special mortgage offers and cash-back deals, some of which were worth up to £9,000.

Adrian Coles, director general of the Building Societies Association, said: "Strength in the consumer side of the general economy coupled with stronger house prices, reported sharp falls in negative equity and lower mortgage

rates after the reduction in base rates in June, are all likely to help to increase confidence."

But Tim Sweeney, director general of the British Bankers' Association (BBA), sounded a note of caution as consumer credit rose by £256 million, significantly down on the previous month's £337 million. Commenting on the lending figures from BBA members Mr Sweeney said: "While mortgage lending was close to the recent monthly average, consumer credit was noticeably less buoyant than of late."

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, is banking on a strong consumer sector to deliver accelerating growth but the latest data is sending mixed signals to the Treasury. The Chancellor forecasts a 4.25 per cent rise in consumer spending next year, following 3.25 per cent this, but he still believes that this will not lead to higher inflation. Most forecasters agree that inflation is set to remain subdued but disagree on the reasons why. Some believe that consumer spending will not be as robust as the Chancellor hopes.

Separate figures from the Bank of England yesterday showed that M4 broad money supply grew by 10 per cent in the year to June, the same year-on-year rate as in May. M4 has been above the Government's monitoring range of 3 to 9 per cent since late last year and was one of the reasons the Bank of England opposed the last quarter-point cut in base rates in June.

But the Treasury put a positive gloss on the figures, saying that M4 growth during the second quarter appeared to have stabilised. Mr Clarke played down the importance of M4 for his deliberations on policy when testifying to the Treasury Select Committee this week. Instead, he highlighted indicators in the real economy that showed sluggish activity and emphasised that he sees no sign of inflation pressures building up.

In his own testimony to the committee, Eddie George, Governor of the Bank, suggested that strong M4 growth is incompatible with the Government's inflation target of 2.5 per cent or less but even he did not suggest that Britain was on the brink of an inflationary boom.

City reaction to the figures was neutral with some arguing that, despite M4, the Chancellor may still cut interest rates after his July 30 meeting with Mr George.

Greenspan stance on inflation helps rally US markets

By Janet Bush, Economics Correspondent

AMERICAN stocks and bonds rallied yesterday after Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve, reassured markets that the US central bank would raise interest rates if it seemed that inflation pressures look set to pick up, but did not seem to suggest an imminent tightening of policy.

In his Humphrey Hawkins testimony to Congress, Mr Greenspan said the Fed had become "especially vigilant" about inflation, an emphasis which triggered a rally in Treasury bonds.

He said: "I am confident that the Federal Open Market Committee would move to tighten reserve market conditions should the weight of incoming evidence persuasively suggest an oncoming intensification of inflation pressures that would jeopardise the durability of the economic expansion."

Mr Greenspan said there was considerable uncertainty, and the behaviour of the economy over the next few weeks would be crucial. The Fed had "moved to a level of heightened surveillance" of what is going on because the period ahead is a relatively important one.

The equity market fol-

lowed bonds higher, with some investors encouraged because they did not perceive any urgency about higher rates in Mr Greenspan's remarks. He said there were early indications that a period of favourable inflation, especially in the labour market, might be drawing to a close. Some felt his language would have been stronger had he expected a rate rise at the next FOMC meeting on August 20.

In mid-session trading, the benchmark Treasury long bond had rallied by about three-quarters of a point to yield 6.97 per cent. On Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average was nearly 50 points higher at 5,426.45.

The dollar softened again yesterday as foreign exchange dealers interpreted Mr Greenspan's remarks that any tightening in monetary policy may be some way off. At mid-session, it was quoted at DML4995, about half a cent off its earlier high.

In London, shares closed at their best of the day after the bounce in the Dow. The FT-SE 100 finished up 25.2 points at 3,693.4.

New issues hit by market jitters



Ric Piper, left, and Michael Jeffries are going ahead with the flotation of W S Atkins

Allied opts for low float price

By Sarah Cunningham

ALLIED CARPETS, the leading carpet retailer, yesterday set its flotation price at the lower end of its indicated range, blaming jittery markets for its caution.

The 215p per share price values Allied at £189 million. It had hoped to achieve at least £200 million and had set a range of 205p to 235p. "The final pricing of the offer took place in a very difficult market," said Ray Nethercott, managing director. Share dealings begin next Tuesday.

Small investors took up much less of the offer than had been hoped. Only 57 per cent of the nearly 14 million shares in the intermediaries offer were sold and the difference was taken up by institutions. At the issue price, the proforma historic price/earnings ratio of the issue price is 18.7, which compares favourably with Carpetright, its similarly sized quoted competitor, which is on an historic p/e of 24.

Kleinwort Benson, the lead underwriter for British Biotech's £143 million rights issue, confirmed yesterday that the offering was a flop, with only 49 per cent of shareholders taking up the rights.

Kleinwort said that the remainder of the one-for-eight rights issue of 7.25 million new shares had been allocated to the sub-underwriting group. The issue was priced at £20.50 per share, against the closing price of £19.63 on Wednesday, the deadline for acceptances. British Biotech shares rebounded yesterday to close at £21.43. They were £36 in May.

Meanwhile, the £198 million flotation of WS Atkins, the engineering consultancy, is going ahead at 215p a share, valuing the holding of Michael Jeffries, chief executive, at £3 million. Ric Piper, finance director, has 180,000 shares.

Pennington, page 25

Lloyds Chemists fight is expected to resume

By Martin Waller

A BIDDING war is expected to resume today when Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, clears the way for rival offers for Lloyds Chemists, the pharmacy chain.

A series of rising takeover bids for Lloyds, the last valuing it at £650 million, was put on hold in March by a reference to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. The bidders are UniChem, British owner of the Moss pharmacies, and Gehe, of Germany, buyer last year of the British pharmaceuticals

business AAH. At the time of the reference, Gehe had made the highest bid, worth £5 a Lloyds share, but UniChem held 10 per cent of Lloyds after a share-buying raid.

Sources close to the companies expect Mr Lang's verdict at noon today. The MMC is thought to have recommended letting the bids through, but making the winner sell part of its pharmaceutical wholesaling business.

Pennington, page 25

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The value of shares and the income from them can fall as well as rise and you may not get back the full amount invested. Past performance is not a guide to the future. All figures sourced Microcap, 20 yrs 30.4-76-30.456, 5 yrs 30.457-30.458. Investment trust figures basic; mid-market prices, net income reinvested, incl. historical 5.5% notional expenses. (Actual Plan charges: 0.2% commission on purchase and sales, *plus statutory 0.5% Govt. Stamp Duty on purchase). Unit trust figures basic offer to bid, net income reinvested. Building Society figures basic highest net rate available (UK Savings £25,000+ rate) total return, net income reinvested. Foreign & Colonial Management Limited (regulated by BMO and the Personal Investment Authority) or its subsidiaries are the Managers of the Investment trusts.

Tomkins' loyalty plan faces investor revolt

By Jason Nisse

TOMKINS, the acquisitive conglomerate headed by Greg Hutchings, is facing a rebellion by leading shareholders over its proposal to introduce a long-term loyalty plan rewarding around 50 senior executives up to £260,000 of shares each.

Some large institutional investors have decided to vote against the scheme at Wednesday's shareholders' meeting, and others may follow suit.

The loyalty plan will give any of 50 key executives up to 100,000 shares if they buy the same amount of Tomkins' shares and hold them for seven years. Ian Duncan, Tomkins' finance director, said the company had suffered heavily from other firms headhunting its staff and was introducing the plan to tie in key executives.

The institutions are unhappy that there is no performance threshold that the executives will have to meet to receive those shares. "We are in principle against matching share rewards where there are no performance hurdles," a director of a leading insurance group said.

Mr Duncan said a performance threshold had been excluded because



Hutchings: hopes to tie in key staff

the executives would have to borrow large sums to buy the shares at the beginning of the seven years and Tomkins found banks would only lend the money if there was a definite pay-out at the end.

The institutions have also raised worries about the appointment as a non-executive director of Charles Gates, chairman of Gates Corporation, the US group that Tomkins is buying for £753 million. Mr Gates is 75, and most institutions routinely veto the appointment of any director over 70.

Workers win as TBI lands Belfast airport

By Fraser Nelson

TBI, the property group that owns Cardiff airport, is to buy Belfast International Airport for £105 million, making it Britain's largest airport owner after BAA.

The deal will net £18 million for the airport's three executive directors, who invested just £50,000 each in a management buyout from BAA two years ago.

The airport's 137 stakeholding employees, 70 per cent of its workforce, will share £10 million. Some invested as little as £300. Their average payout is expected to be £76,000.

Mercury Asset Management, which backed the buyout with a £16.4 million investment, will sell its majority stake to TBI for £57 million, to be paid in cash and shares. MAM is to retain the shares, making it TBI's second largest shareholder with an 11.5 per cent stake.

Keith Brooks, TBI's chief executive, said the group would invest heavily in the airport, opening new commercial outlets to generate more passenger spending. He added that he intended to attract more international flights by using the group's existing links with

four operators at Cardiff airport. Under TBI's ownership, Cardiff airport increased its operating profit by 63 per cent to £5.2 million in 11 months, lifting turnover 11 per cent to £14.5 million. Mr Brooks said he intended to achieve the same growth at Belfast.

TBI's shares rose 1p to 73p yesterday, as it also reported financial results significantly ahead of analysts' predictions. In the year to March 31, its property portfolio grew 78 per cent to £190 million, swelled by the £98 million worth of property from its £43 million acquisition of Molyneux Estates. Rental income rose by 71 per cent to £16.3 million and it raised £30 million from the 13 properties it sold during the year.

Overall, group pre-tax profits rose 146 per cent to £10.1 million, beating forecasts of £6.1 million. Credit Lyonnais Laing is forecasting a further 78 per cent growth in pre-tax profits to £18 million next year. The final and total dividend was 1p (0.18p), paid from earnings which doubled to 2.93p per share (1.40p).

Tempus, page 26

Broker is struck off by SFA

An investment broker who "churned" a client account and gave unsuitable advice has been expelled from the City by the Securities and Futures Authority. John Odell, who was paid on a half-commission basis by Branstetter & Gothard, a private client stockbroker, was struck off the register for failing to pay costs of £3,000. Branstetter & Gothard, who compensated a client for an unspecified loss, was ordered to pay a £10,000 fine and £6,000 costs.

Graseby lift

Graseby, the electronic instruments company, may receive orders worth up to \$50 million over five years from the US Army and the US Department of Defence for its chemical agent detection system, G1D3. It will receive initial orders of up to \$2 million.

Telematrix fall

Shares of Telematrix fell 18p to 53p after the supplier of components for telecommunications and networking reported pre-tax profits of £200,000 (£4.9 million) in the six months to June 30. Earnings fell to 1p a share (3.2p). There is again no dividend.

TOURIST RATES

Bank	Buyer	Bank	Buyer
Australia \$	2.06	1.90	
Austria Sch	17.15	15.58	
Belgium Fr	30.31	45.01	
Canada \$	2.22	2.03	
Cyprus Cyp	0.74	0.82	
Denmark Kr	8.42	8.89	
Finland Mk	5.18	5.23	
France Fr	2.48	2.28	
Germany Dm	3.90	3.92	
Greece Dr	12.57	11.57	
Hong Kong \$	1.13	93	
Ireland Ir£	1.017	0.927	
Israel Sh	5.29	4.54	
Italy Lit	2.425	2.300	
Japan Yen	181.80	185.80	
Netherlands Gld	0.352	0.338	
New Zealand \$	2.727	2.477	
Norway Kr	2.38	2.17	
Portugal Esc	10.41	9.61	
Spain Ptas	228.50	235.50	
Sweden Kr	7.23	6.33	
Switzerland Fr	201.00	185.00	
Turkey Lira	10.84	10.04	
USA \$	2.005	1.925	
USA \$	1.838	1.508	

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.



Chris Swan, head of Finelist, the motor parts distributor, aims to expand Motor World to more than 500 branches

Chambers urge caution on rates as confidence revives

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

BRITAIN'S chambers of commerce yesterday gave a warning against interest rate changes and tax cuts, as they announced new evidence of an increase in business confidence and a reversal in the decline of the UK's manufacturing industry.

Leaders of the chambers (BCC) said that their latest quarterly survey showed the economy to be on a "sound footing" with no immediate evidence of overheating. Referring to the division between Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, over interest rate policy, the chambers said that what the survey was showing "is that we have to be extremely cautious on interest rates".

Dr Ian Peters, Deputy Director-General of the BCC, said the Chancellor and Governor should "do nothing that might endanger the recovery and allow inflationary pressures to run away".

Any changes in base rates had to be sustainable, he said, and gave a warning against further cuts in rates having to be followed promptly by new rate rises. BCC leaders also gave a warning against tax cuts in the Budget. Dr Peters said business was "very concerned" the Government might run monetary and fiscal policy for political rather than economic reasons as the election drew closer. "It's important the politicians keep their heads."

In its survey of more than 8,000 companies, the chambers found that from a three-year low in the last quarter, manufacturing activity had recovered to its level of six months ago, mainly because larger firms were seeing a return to growth.

Among service sector companies, sales growth had risen to the second-highest figure recorded by the chambers, with a net balance — those reporting an increase set against those registering a fall — of 35 per cent of firms.

On exports, growth was also recovering, with a net balance of one third of manufacturing companies reporting an increase in export orders, the level of two quarters ago.

Manufacturers' confidence was also returning, the survey suggested — up from a balance of 49 per cent three months ago to 54 per cent now.

But the balance of manufacturing firms revising their investment plans upward has fallen back in the past three months, from 22 per cent to 19 per cent. Service-sector investment was again stable.

In manufacturing, large firms are continuing to cut workforces, while jobs in the services remain at a high level.

Orders and, at the same, increased competition from overseas, particularly from the Far East.

Express Lifts, which has been present in Northampton since 1917, incurred a pre-tax loss of £1.3 million in the year to April 30. The merged business is to be called Express Lifts and will be based in Leicester.

Roy Markham, managing director of Express Lifts, said: "There has been a reduction in orders and, at the same, increased competition from overseas, particularly from the Far East."

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Roy Markham, managing director of Express Lifts, said: "There has been a reduction in orders and, at the same, increased competition from overseas, particularly from the Far East."

Finelist in £46m offer for Motor World

By Sarah Cunningham

FINELIST, the motor parts distributor, yesterday launched an agreed £46.9 million share exchange offer for Motor World, the main competitor to Halfords.

The bid of 75 new Finelist shares for every 73 Motor World shares values Motor World shares at 288p, a slight premium to their closing price yesterday of 285p. Motor World shares leapt 65p on news of the offer. Finelist shares lost 7p to close also at 285p.

The offer is in new shares and up to 50 per cent in a cash alternative of 260p a share. The merged company will be capitalised at almost £150 million.

Chris Swan, founder and chairman of Finelist, who floated the company in 1994, will remain in charge, but Darrell Kershaw, Motor World's managing director, will join the board of the enlarged company.

The deal will combine Finelist's 208 car parts sales depots, which trade as Edmunds Walker and Autela, with the 330 Motor World parts retail outlets.

Mr Swan said that he hopes to expand the number of Motor World branches to more than 500 in the next three years. The acquisition will enhance earnings in the first year. The company is likely to expand further by buying out independent operators, who still dominate the highly fragmented market, he said.

Motor World directors and their families have accepted the offer on behalf of their 8.8 per cent holding. The balance is owned by institutions.

Motor World said yesterday that its pre-tax profit in the six months to April 28 was up by 13.1 per cent, to £2.15 million, on sales up by 24.1 per cent, to £30.9 million. It will pay a dividend of 4.5p a share.

Finelist estimated its pre-tax profit for the year to June 30 at £8.55 million. It will recommend a final dividend of 4.5p a share. It will not be payable on new Finelist shares issued for the offer.

Tempus, page 26

Legal & General sees income up

SHARES in Legal & General advanced yesterday in response to encouraging figures on new business, particularly in the UK. Worldwide premium income rose by 39 per cent and UK premium income by 56 per cent, reflecting an upturn in the life assurance sector after two years of difficult trading in the life assurance sector.

L&G's figures followed strong rises in new business this week from Prudential, the biggest life insurer, Sun Life, and Britannia. L&G's index-tracking investment products contributed to its success.

L&G's shares rose 15p, to 702p, and Lloyds Abbey Life, due to report interim figures next Wednesday, was up 14p, to 528p, on City expectations that its interim dividend will rise by 10 per cent. L&G's worldwide new life, pensions and investment business in the first half of 1996 was £185.6 million (1995: £133.3 million). The figures for both years now include Pep and unit trust sales. UK new business rose 56.4 per cent, to £141.5 million (1995: £90.5 million).

Electricity buyback

NORTHERN Ireland Electricity has renewed its remit to buy back up to 14.9 per cent of its shares. The company last year bought back 24.4 million shares to improve its capital structure.

The company is awaiting the outcome of its first regulatory review, which will set prices for the next five years. Electricity prices are substantially higher in Northern Ireland than in the rest of the United Kingdom, largely because the company is locked into contracts with generators in the province.

MPs back Link scheme

THE Government's Business Links — one-stop shops providing services to local businesses — are one of the most important business reforms of the 1990s, the all-party Commons Select Committee on Trade and Industry said.

In spite of some business scepticism about the scheme's role, the committee of MPs said: "We remain firm supporters of the concept of Business Link and continue to regard it as having enormous potential for improving competitiveness."

Fund's directors reply

THE directors of the \$200 million close-ended Malaysia Equity Fund yesterday revealed their restructuring proposals to counter those put forward six weeks ago by the UK arm of Peregrine, the Hong Kong investment house. British, Far Eastern and European shareholders in the fund, which is incorporated in the Cayman Islands, will now be asked to vote on both Peregrine's and Malaysia's plans to turn the fund into an open-ended structure at a meeting on September 24.

AEA sell-off move likely

MOVES to privatise the commercial division of the UK Atomic Energy Authority are expected soon. In spite of British Energy's disappointing stock market performance, through which small investors have lost money, the Government is expected to press ahead with plans to sell AEA Technology for a likely price of £200 million. AEA Technology derives about half of its business from the nuclear industry with work on decommissioning and extending the life of nuclear power stations.

Aim profits take off

AIM GROUP, the aircraft interiors manufacturer, saw pre-tax profits rise to £3.92 million in the year to April 30 from just £3.00 million in the previous 12 months. A Northwest Airlines contract for an initial 106 DC9-30 aircraft interiors gave significant boost to turnover, which rose to a record £67.2 million (£32.6 million). Earnings were 20.3p a share, compared with losses of 0.2p last time. The total dividend is increased to 5p from 4.5p, with a 4p final.

Walters priced at £24m

ROBERT WALTERS, the financial recruitment consultancy, is to be capitalised at £24.2 million when it floats on the Stock Exchange next Thursday. The group, which operates in seven countries worldwide, is raising £2 million from the placing, which it will use to pursue larger contracts. Collins Stewart & Co have placed 9.2 million shares at 105p, giving it an historic price earnings multiple of 16.3 times. The issue was twice oversubscribed.

Johnson deal for Prince

JOHNSON Controls Inc is to acquire Prince Automotive, a privately owned automotive interiors supplier for about \$1.35 billion in cash. Prince, which expects 1996 sales of about \$850 million, supplies interior systems and components, including overhead systems and consoles, door panels, floor consoles, visors and armrests. Its products are included in 80 vehicle platforms, primarily for domestic sales. Prince has a workforce of 4,500 and eight manufacturing plants; Johnson Controls produces automotive seating systems, facility services and control systems, plastics packaging and automotive batteries.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHARITY COMMISSION
Charity of the Duke of Devonshire
Scheme for the Duke of Devonshire
No. 2787/1996
The Commission proposes to make a Scheme for the Duke of Devonshire. A copy of the draft Scheme can be seen at the office of the Principal Secretary to the Charity, at 15, 21, Market Street, London, EC4A 3DF, or at the office of the Principal Secretary to the Charity, at 15, 21, Market Street, London, EC4A 3DF, or at the office of the Principal Secretary to the Charity, at 15, 21, Market Street, London, EC4A 3DF.

LEGAL NOTICES

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the creditors of the above-named company will be held at 11.00 am on the 25th day of July 1996 at the offices of the Liquidator, at 15, 21, Market Street, London, EC4A 3DF, for the purpose of considering the proposed Scheme of Arrangement.

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

Top businessmen, such as Lord Hanson, reach for The Sunday Times with its unrivalled line-up of informed and incisive business and City writers, including John Jay, Jeff Randall, David Smith and Irwin Stelzer

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

BUSINESS

Accounting tricks

Sport

Guinness runs dry

Pearson seeks an outsider to replace Barlow

Fife set for £1bn Hyundai chip plant

Sultan of Brunei bids for Forte's hotel

0171-782 7344

□ Ruling due on Lloyds bids □ Choppy waters for new share issues □ Vital poll draws nearer for builder

Awaiting Dr Lang's prescription

ONE of the few areas still labouring under the sort of heavy-handed state supervision taken for granted 40 years ago is the complicated route between drug manufacturer and that useful little shop across from the doctor's surgery. The Government would love to deregulate, but the country's 9,000 independent pharmacies like things as they are, thank you, and there are few votes in making life more difficult for frail pensioners and sickly toddlers.

Today Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, should rule on the Monopolies and Mergers Commission's four-month inquiry into the competing bids for Lloyds Chemists. Mr Lang has been a tad unpredictable of late, but he is likely to follow the MMC's line and allow a resumption of the bidding war.

As a result, either Gehe of Germany, which owns the British business AAH, or UniChem, owner of the Moss chain of pharmacies, will own Lloyds by the end of this year. The country's second biggest drugs retailer and third biggest distributor will be under new management. The prospects, thereafter, for those pensioners and toddlers are more uncertain.

The MMC reference in March was a shock because both bidders had privately indicated they would do anything they were asked. It is marginally easier to open a pub than be granted a licence to open a pharmacy, as the policy has been to ensure a hidden subsidy by allowing anyone in a given area. Licences change hands for up to £500,000, and Lloyds has 920 of them. If UniChem wins its total will outstrip the 1,200 held by Boots, the market leader; AAH would end up neck and neck.

But it is not the retail business that is bothering the MMC. The two bidders have a quarter or more of the wholesaling market, and Lloyds another 5 per cent. This is also regulated, wholesalers receiving a 12½ per cent margin on the drugs they buy, four fifths of this passed on to the retailer. There are areas of the country where the two overlap with Lloyds. The fear has been that in places where one or other becomes sole supplier on taking out Lloyds, some of that margin

may stay with the wholesaler.

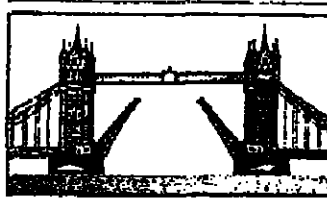
Mr Lang, therefore, is likely to insist on sales of depots to independents to prevent such local monopolies. Fair enough; but there is a danger the retail aspect may be overlooked. Those licences are entirely portable. There must be some temptation, once Lloyds is bedded down, to move run-down or struggling local pharmacies to more upbeat retail sites — perhaps rather further from the surgery than those pensioners and toddlers can comfortably totter.

Price must be right at Somerfield

THIS is the worst possible market for issuing new shares. Wild daily swings on the FT-SE, driven entirely by the state of Wall Street and a few obscure high-tech stocks, engender a cautious approach on the part of those asked to put up the cash a few days in advance.

New British Energy

PENNINGTON



shareholders can be permitted a wry smile here. But Somerfield, the food retailer that seems to change its name with every fresh delivery from the warehouse, may just be about to be caught in Energy's fallout.

Allied Carpets started with hopes of commanding a market value of £250 million, conceded last month that perhaps £200 million was more like it, and yesterday had to settle for a comparatively slim £189 million. Small investors, perhaps with their fingers burnt by Jarvis Hotels and then by British Energy itself, stayed away, and only around half of the Allied

shares intended for them were taken up. The slack was taken up by the City, and the issue was comfortably oversubscribed. Contrast British Biotech, where even the City was not prepared to take a longer view. But if the well-respected Allied Carpets, even on a conservative pricing range, cannot grab Sid's fancy, what hope is there for Somerfield, which must lie on any range of assessed risk somewhere between the two?

The food chain wants to sell 20 per cent of its shares to the retail market. Why should Sids restrain themselves in the face of Allied only to hurdle into the arms of the frankly less attractive Somerfield? This is not the time for over-confidence or for trying to brazen it out in the market. Allied Carpets is getting away with it because it has decided to be realistic about price. After Iceland's profit warning on Wednesday and Allied's realism, Somerfield had better start thinking again about whether any small shareholders will

want to buy in its 180-190p range, or whether it will suffer the humiliation of falling short. But then unlike Ray Nethercott of Allied, David Simons, Somerfield's chief executive, has a £5 million-plus bonus riding on success of the float.

Shaky foundations at Costain

BY MONDAY lunchtime one of the most historic names in British construction may be heading for the breaker's yard. The fate of Costain depends upon a weekend of brinkmanship, and the mathematics of Monday's extraordinary meeting are stacked against the company.

The two biggest shareholders, with 19 per cent each, say they will reject the refinancing plan. This would reduce debt to manageable levels, but it would also effectively strip existing investors of three shares out of every four they hold. If the dissidents hold firm, Costain must achieve an 80

per cent vote of all shareholders to have any chance of success. The only question is whether they really want to pull the temple roof down on everyone, because the only alternative is the receivers.

If Costain survives, even more startling will be the survival of its Telford-coated deputy chairman, Peter Costain. As the last family board member, he has presided over the raising and subsequent loss of £160 million of shareholders' money over the past half decade. Yet the refinancing includes a change in the articles of association to allow him to stay on. With his powers of persuasion, perhaps Mr Costain should be in charge of negotiations with the rebel shareholders.

Hedge fund

OUR pensions are in safe hands. A fund manager, wishing to remain nameless, called yesterday to voice horror over United Utilities' long-term incentive plan, which faces a vote at the annual meeting next week. "Our clients are unhappy. They feel it is overgenerous and based on the wrong performance criteria. That is why we have decided to... abstain." Makes you despair, doesn't it?

Super regulator for energy tops inquiry agenda

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY and ERIC REGULY

ENERGY regulators are to face parliamentary scrutiny in a wide-ranging investigation that could lead to a single regulator rather than separate bodies for electricity and gas.

MPs on the Trade and Industry Select Committee will call Professor Stephen Littlechild, the electricity regulator, and Clare Spottiswoode, his counterpart in gas, to give evidence in a major review of regulatory practice. While concentrating on the energy regulators, it is thought that the review will also embrace Ofel.

MPs will start work on the inquiry in October and it is expected it will take several months to complete. The agenda of the select committee, chaired by Labour's Martin O'Neill, has yet to be finalised but the feasibility of a super regulator, as opposed to individual specialised regulators, is thought to be a prime consideration.

The investigation comes as three regulators are already grappling with turbulent times. A Monopolies and Mergers Commission referral for British Gas seems inevitable with Ofgas's final pricing proposals for its pipeline division expected next week. Ms Spottiswoode's proposals to curb revenues by about £850 million next year, which could deliver a £30 cut in household bills, provoked an angry reaction from British Gas and its shareholders.

Ofel is also set to trigger an MMC inquiry. At BT's annual meeting in Newcastle yesterday, Sir Iain Vallance, chairman, said the company was "at a critical stage in its dealings with Ofel" and called for a legislative solution to disagreements over what powers Ofel should have to determine, and put an end to, business practices it deems to be anti-competitive.

In a letter sent to BT last night, Ofel essentially pre-

sented the company with a take-it-or-leave-it regulatory package. The package reduces the price cap to the inflation rate, less 4½ per cent, against the current RPI-X per cent, and remains firm on the anti-competitive clause.

Professor Littlechild is at the centre of a storm over the progress of competition in domestic electricity. Yesterday the electricity pool, the industry's wholesale market, endorsed a report that roundly criticised Ofel, his office, for its role in the plan to bring choice to 23 million households. The report, by the pool auditor, said that competition could fail or significantly lag its 1998 deadline.

Figures from the Gas Consumers Council yesterday showed complaints against British Gas are still increasing. In the first six months of the year complaints rose 39 per cent to 25,133 in comparison with the first half of last year.

Lloyd's picks Maltby for Equitas post

COLIN MALTBY, former chief executive of Kleinwort Benson Investment Management, has been appointed chief executive officer of Equitas, the £7 billion reinsurance company set up by Lloyd's of London. Tony Richards, 47, becomes group financial controller.

Mr Maltby, 45, will supervise the fund management groups chosen to manage Equitas's investment portfolio. The UK groups are BZW Investment Management; Mercury Asset Management; PDM; and Prudential Portfolio Managers, who will each manage assets of between £500 million and £1 billion.

The American groups include Scudder, Stevens & Clark and Zurich Investment Management.

Deals boost for healthcare sector

By ERIC REGULY

DEALS agreed yesterday by Cantab and Biocompatibles helped to lift the spirits of the battered emerging pharmaceuticals and healthcare sector.

Shares of Cantab, a Cambridge company that specialises in immunology, rose 68p to 663p after it formed a collaboration with SmithKline Beecham to develop and market Cantab's so-called TAGW vaccine for genital warts.

Cantab said that it could potentially receive £24 million in licence and milestone payments under the vaccine agreement.

It will receive £7 million up front, divided between licence fees of £3 million and an equity investment of £4 million in the form of 471,000 new shares at a subscription

price of £8.50. The investment is equal to 3 per cent of the company's equity. Cantab may receive up to £17 million more if certain development milestones under the agreement are achieved.

SmithKline, in return, receives exclusive worldwide development, manufacturing and marketing rights to the TAGW products. Biocompatibles signed a two-year agreement with Cryolife of Marietta, Georgia, to apply Biocompatibles' coatings technology to porcine and human heart valves.

Biocompatibles will receive an initial payment of \$100,000 under the agreement, followed by up to \$1.5 million in milestone payments. The company's shares rose 5p to 400p.

Hi-Tec steps up recovery

By CLARE STEWART

RECOVERY at Hi-Tec Sports, the sports footwear manufacturer, took another step forward after a strong rise in profits in the year to April. Pre-tax profits came in at £2 million, compared to a £12.5 million loss for the previous 15-month period.

Frank van Wessel, chairman, said the improvement was achieved in spite of difficult trading conditions in

Britain and America. "We expect the current year to remain highly competitive," he added.

Although turnover on a 12-month like-for-like basis fell from £101 million to £93 million, operating profits rose from £3 million to £4.4 million. Earnings were 2.5p a share (26.8p loss), but the company is not yet ready to restore the dividend. The shares fell 1p to 44p.

Budgie lifts Sleepy Kids

By CLARE STEWART

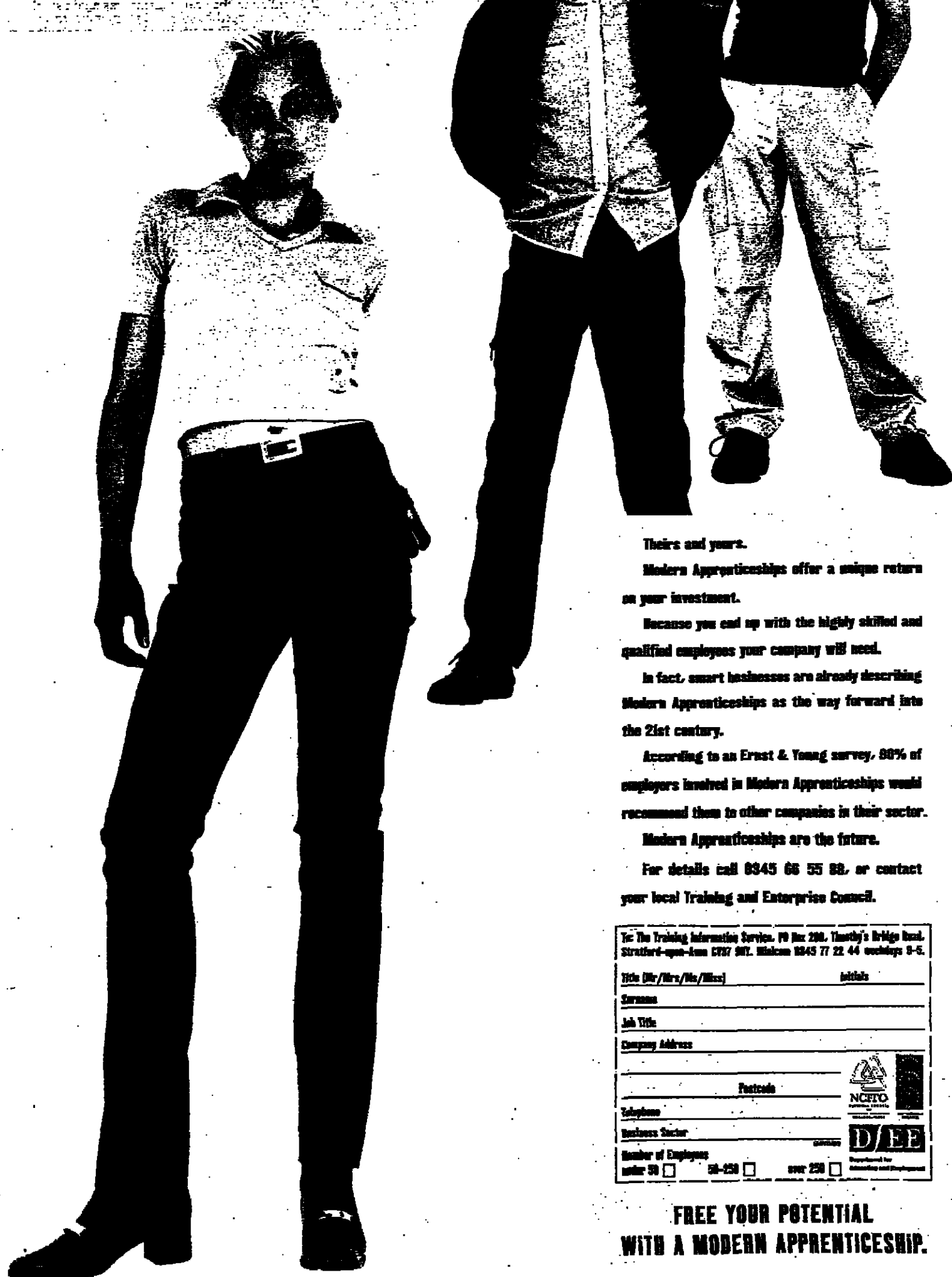
BUDGIE the Helicopter continues to whip up profits for Sleepy Kids, the animation and merchandising group.

The cartoon character created by the Duchess of York, helped half-year pre-tax profits to rise 7 per cent to £325,081, while group turnover rose 29 per cent to £950,925. After its first ever dividend of 0.1p last year, Sleepy Kids is not making an interim payout. However,

Martin Powell, chairman, said it does intend to pay a final dividend this year.

Budgie has now been sold to 70 countries, and more than 130 merchandising deals have been signed. Budgie and Transylvania Pet Shop, another Sleepy Kids property, are attracting top viewing figures in the UK. In June, the new series of Transylvania Pet Shop drew more than 1.6 million viewers.

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Title (Mr/Ms/Mrs/Miss) Initials

Company

Job Title

Company Address

Postcode

Telephone

Business Sector

Number of Employees under 50 ☐ 51-250 ☐ over 250 ☐

FREE YOUR POTENTIAL WITH A MODERN APPRENTICESHIP.

Property group buys Island Site for £31m

Shaftesbury looks west

By CARL MORTIMED

SHAFTESBURY, the property group that owns the Chinatown Estate in London, is expanding its empire westwards with the £31 million purchase of the Island Site adjacent to the Trocadero leisure centre.

The deal is being financed with a one-for-two rights issue priced at 125p to raise £29.2 million. Shares in the property group fell 1p to 147p on news of the cash call.

The Island Site is owned by Rupert Street Investments, a company that went into receivership along with the Trocadero in 1993. KPMG appointed Shaftesbury as project manager in February 1993. The 24 restaurants and shops on the site were then



Lane: £20m reinvestment

1993 had about £55 million outstanding on the site.

Bounded by Shaftesbury Avenue to the North, the Trocadero to the West, Coventry Street to the South and Chinatown to the East, the properties will increase Shaftesbury's West End holdings to about 80 per cent of the group's portfolio.

Jonathan Lane, chief executive of Shaftesbury, said the emphasis would increase with the planned £20 million sale of the group's non-London properties and reinvestment in Chinatown, Covent Garden and Carnaby Street.

Rental income from the Island Site totals £1.79 million, but, relet at market rates, it could rise to £2.5 million.

City Diary, page 27

STOCK MARKET



MICHAEL CLARK

British Biotech bounces back with 180p surge

SHARES of British Biotech bounced back with a rise of 180p to £143 after the rumour of £143 million rights issue was more than 12 times oversubscribed.

The remaining shares were placed with various institutions at £19.50 after the price dipped below the rights terms of £20.50. Brokers said British Biotech had become the victim of a classic bear raid in the past week, with speculators happy to sell the price lower. Many of those bears are still uncovered and, now that the unwanted shares have been placed, may scramble to cover their positions, forcing the price still higher. Only last month the shares touched a high of almost £37, but fell sharply after the company announced the terms of its rights issue.

Despite its popularity British Biotech has yet to make a penny profit. But hopes are high for Marimastat, its pancreatic cancer treatment, which is about to enter phase three clinical trials. The shares are due to be sub-divided later in the year.

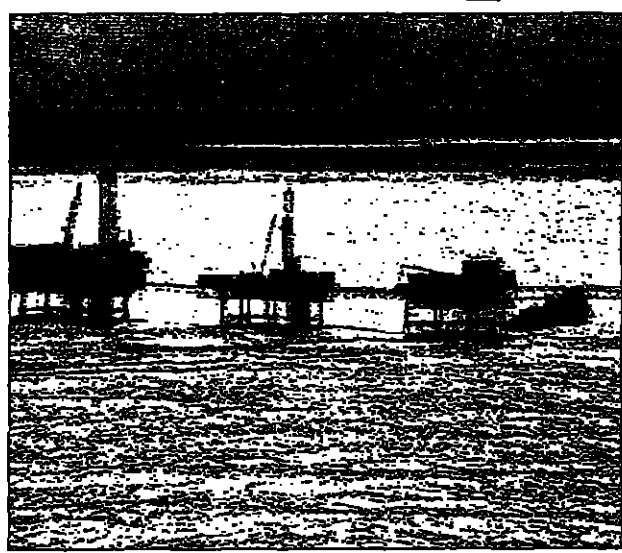
Cantab Pharmaceutical celebrated its link-up with SmithKline Beecham to develop and market a new vaccine for genital warts at a price of 65p to 66p. SmithKline, up 4p at 67½p, is also reckoned to have taken out options in Cantab shares.

Elsewhere, Chiroscience rose 25p to 340p and Cortec International 13p to 282p. But first-time dealings in Alzyme received a lukewarm reception. Offered at 60p on the Alternative Investment Market, shares in the biotech company opened at 58p and slipped to close at 53p, a discount of 8p on the day.

ML Laboratories celebrated news of its first profits ever with a jump of 17p to 361p. The surplus of £83,105 compared with a loss last year of £1.4 million and was achieved on triple sales. The group has signed a marketing deal with Medeva worth £70 million.

The rest of the equity market closed at its best of the day, cheered by comments made by Alan Greenspan, Federal Reserve chairman, to Congress. He sees the US economy slowing to a sustainable pace in the second half of the year and seems reluctant to raise US interest rates.

His comments had a positive effect on share prices on both sides of the Atlantic, with



Oil shares strengthened on fears of a terrorism revival

The Dow Jones climbing more than 50 points in early trading. London followed suit with the FT-SE 100 index ending the session 35.2 points up at 3,693.4. Total turnover was less than 600 million shares.

Railtrack celebrated its elevation to the top 100 companies that make up the index with a rise of 4p at 214p. It fought off opposition from

Blue Circle Industries stood out with a rise of 6p to 360p after a buy recommendation from Williams de Bro, the broker, which says it is worth acquiring for its property element alone. The broker calculates the value of BCI's property portfolio at £500 million compared with the £100 million its books say.

Lucas Industries, up 5p at 210p, Premier Farnell, unchanged at 623p, Compass, steady at 560p, Securicor, 1p higher at 259p, and Hays, down 5p at 445p. It follows the merger of Sun Alliance and Royal Insurance.

Takeover favourite Lasso attracted renewed support with the price climbing 7p to 180p after finally clinching its Algerian production deal. It

covers wells in two oilfields located in block 404 in the Ghadames Basin. As part of the deal Lasso made plans for the design and construction of stage one production facilities in the two fields.

Oil shares generally benefited from a firmer crude price on world markets, with traders taking the view that North Sea supplies may be boosted

by a revival of terrorist activity. This follows speculation about the fate of TWA's Boeing 747 over Long Island. Enterprise Oil rose 11p to 491p, and Shell 7p to 942p with ABN Amro Hoare Govett, the broker, said to be pushing the shares.

Hoare was also said to be behind the support for Pilkington as the price hardened 4p to 192p. Redland, also

in the building sector, climbed 19p to 419p and RMC Group 24p to £10.41.

Iceland continued to reel from this week's profits warning with the price down a further 4p at 114p.

Motor World surged 65p to 285p after learning of the terms of an agreed £48.1 million bid from Finelast, down 7p at 285p. The automotive parts distributor is offering 75 new shares for every 73 Motor World shares, valuing the deal at around 295p a share.

Record profits during the first six months and optimistic noises about the rest of the year lifted Sleepy Kids 2p to 26p. The group, which has the rights to *Budgie the Little Helicopter* series, created by the Duchess of York, is not paying an interim dividend but expects to make a final payment.

A cautious trading statement and profits setback left Jones Stroud 28p lower at 420p, while a profits warning left Telemetrix nursing a loss of 18p at 53p.

Over on AIM first-time dealings in Life Numbers rang the right note with investors opening at 12p and eventually closing at 14p following a placing by Gerrard Vivian Gray.

GILT-EDGED: Those reassuring comments from Alan Greenspan gave bonds on the London market a boost, with prices at the longer end sporting gains of around 1½ at the close. Earlier in the day dealers had been cheered by the latest German IPO survey, which came in below expectations, fuelling speculation about a possible cut in interest rates.

In the futures pit, the September series of the long gilt climbed 1½ to £106½, as a total of 40,000 contracts were completed.

In long Treasury 8 per cent 2015 rose 1½ to 98½, while in short Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was 1½ better at 103½. The Bank of England was able to supply the remaining tranche of the tapet Treasury Index-Linked 2½ per cent 2001.

NEW YORK: Shares on Wall Street rallied after the testimony by Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, raised optimism that there was no imminent rate rise. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average had powered 38.84 points higher at 5,415.72.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 5415.72 (+38.84)
S&P Composite 638.86 (+4.78)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 21566.42 (+153.54)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 10711.24 (+102.14)

Amsterdam:
DAX Index 529.40 (+2.39)

Sydney:
AO 2119.50 (+23.30)

Frankfurt:
DAX 2506.22 (+4.03)

Singapore:
Straits 2190.95 (+13.08)

Brussels:
General 9242.14 (+59.19)

Paris:
CAC-40 2007.26 (+12.15)

Zurich:
SIX Gen 770.60 (+2.00)

London:
FT 30 2700.4 (+21.7)
FT 100 3692.4 (+35.2)
FT-SE Mid 250 4225.2 (+17.8)
FT-SE 250 4811.6 (+15.4)
FT-SE Europe 100 1951.3 (+4.7)
FT All-Share 1832.1 (+14.36)
FT Non Financials 1944.31 (+13.01)
Central Finance 112.52 (+0.44)
FT Govt Secs 92.90 (+0.09)
Bargains 24355
S&P Volume 592.3m
USM (Dollars) 204.54 (+1.69)
US\$ 1.5430 (+0.0044)
German Mark 2.3050 (+0.0044)
Exchange Index 84.8 (+0.04)
Bank of England official close (4pm)
EUCU 1.2100
LSDR 1.0681
RPI 135.0 Jun 12 (14 Jun 1987)=100
RPI 132.6 Jun 12 (14 Jun 1987)=100

RECENT ISSUES

Alzyme 53 ...
Alumax 1925 ... +0.3%
BATM Advd Cms 127 ...
Belhaven Brewery 200 ... +1
British Energy (100) 96 ... +1
Central Finance (24) 92 ...
Circle Conns 175 ...
Concurrent Techn 19 ...
Drings of Bath 4 ...
Electronic Retailing 148 ...
Paywired 48 ... +3
Haf Pin 63 ... +2
Independent Brit HI 78 ...
Life Numbers 14 ...
Life Numbers Wts 14 ...
Lotteryking 4 ...
Lotteryking Warrants 14 ...
NECA 18 ...
Pace Micro Tse (172) 178 ...
Portland Cement 34 ...
Portland Foods Wts 14 ...
Sua Life & Prov 221 ...

MAJOR CHANGES

Rises:
Cantab Pharms 663p (+68p)
Innovations 212p (+17p)
Chiroscience 340p (+23p)
Mtel 388p (+19p)
MAD 252p (+10p)
Falls:
Blenheim GP 429p (-14p)
DFS Furniture 482p (-8p)
Lex 348p (-9p)

Closing Prices Page 28

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

Jul 1996-1997 Sep 1996-1997

Jul 1996-1997 Sep 1996-1997

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TEMPUS

Feet on the ground

TBI is rapidly turning into an airports group with a sideline in property investment. After yesterday's agreement in Belfast, the company could soon be earning half of its profits from airports, making TBI unrecognisable as the small Welsh property group which reversed into Markneath in 1994.

The shift into transport has been good for shareholders; in spite of having no experience operating airports, TBI has accelerated the pace of growth at Cardiff, raising commercial spend per passenger by 23 per cent in the space of a year and boosting airport profits by 63 per cent.

TBI's strategy is to repeat the success of BAA in driving up retail income in airports. The regional airports have the attraction of growing from a relatively low traffic base and commercial spend. They are also growing

faster - some 8-10 per cent a year compared with 4-5 per cent in the congested airports in the South East. Unlike Cardiff, Belfast International is mainly a domestic airport with only 24 per cent of traffic from international charter operations. The challenge for TBI will be to bring some of the charter traffic that disappears to Dublin or Gatwick back to Belfast, while at the same time boosting the meagre £1.93 per passenger generated from shops, bars and duty-free. That compares with more than £4 at Cardiff.

There must be a risk that Belfast will suffer an economic setback from the collapse of the peace talks but over the past ten years the airport has grown at a compound rate of 8 per cent a year. Compared with the cyclical property sector, currently dull as ditchwater, that sort of growth deserves a premium rating.

WOLSELEY

WOLSELEY has been one of the more bizarre casualties of the recent fallout in the US market but the collapse in its share price looks more like an opportunity than a cause for concern.

The market gave the builder's merchant a hammering because Wolseley generates some 40 per cent of its operating profits from North America with an important presence in the hot Carolinas construction market.

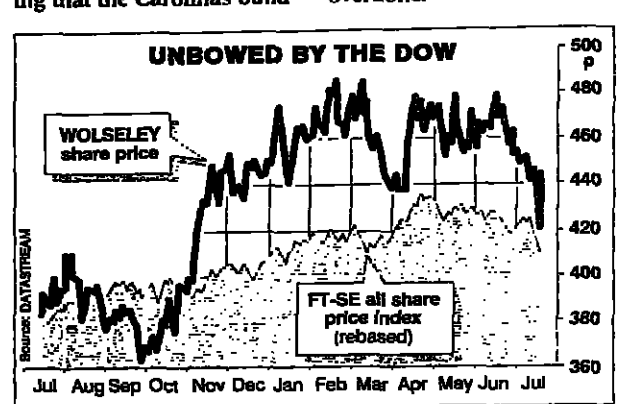
That fails to explain the slump in the shares occasioned by jitters on Wall Street over technology stocks. Wolseley may arguably be at risk from an interest rate rise. Concern over an increase in wage inflation has kept the US long bond yield on the rise and investors feared a reaction by the Federal Reserve

Board in the form of an

increase in short-term rates. That could still happen, although yesterday's message from the Fed was read differently by bond and equity investors with the latter taking the bullish view that rates will not go up in the short term.

But those investors worrying that the Carolinas build-

ing boom is coming to an end should remember that the US is not just one housing market. The recovery is only beginning in California and Wolseley also has important interests in the North West. Meanwhile in the UK, housing transactions are beginning to accelerate. The gloom is overdue.



Motor World

WHEN it comes to selling clutch cables and windscreen wipers there are two companies that matter. Armed with the Finelast distribution power, Motor World is now a much stronger competitor to Halfords.

The deal also puts Motor World in a better position to take over a large slice of the 80 per cent of the market currently in the hands of independent retailers.

Motor World already operates more than 330 stores - compared with 180 when it was floated in 1993 - and a large part of its expansion is because of its purchase last year of the Charlie Brown outlets.

The combined businesses will be retaining the know-how of Finelast's chairman Chris Swan, who at one time worked with Halfords. That looks promising and gives the combined group a better chance of delivering the synergistic benefits of integrat-

ing a distributor and retailer.

The market has been tough - with the National Lottery blamed for less spending by consumers on patching up their old bangers. At the same time cars are becoming more reliable, requiring less expenditure on maintenance. However, the good news for all motor parts companies is that there are more and more cars coming on the roads.

The bad news for the independents is that Halfords and Motor World would like to do to them what Tesco and Sainsbury have already done to small green-grocers. Prices may come down but there will be less choice: a good outlook for Motor World.

Skynet

FOR anyone who found an investment in British Biotech too dull, Skynet Corporation offers an alternative punt. Only founded in February, the maker of tracking systems to find stolen cars joined

the Olex market in June with

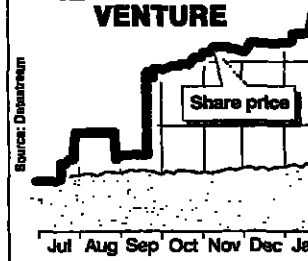
a price of 28.5p. The price is now 250p and Skynet plans to move to AIM at the end of next month.

Yesterday it announced a deal with European Telecom, which proudly calls itself a leading international distributor of cellular telephones. European Telecom is marketing SkyNet 2000, SkyNet's satellite tracking system which ties in with people's mobile phones. So long as SkyNet moves to AIM, European Telecom has agreed to sell 40,000 of these devices a year for the next three years. This only leaves SkyNet needing to sell another 44,000 to hit its target of 48,000 a year.

Of course SkyNet has not made a penny of profit, nor is it likely to do so for a while. SkyNet may be a great company with a great product, but investors should handle the shares with asbestos gloves.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

CANTAB PHARMACEUTICAL SHARES RALLY ON NEWS OF JOINT VENTURE



COMMODITIES

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LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

FT-SE 100

Previous open interest: 62,214

FT-SE 250

Previous open interest: 1,000

Three Month Sterling

Previous open interest: 1,000

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Herts and minds

SIR Ian MacLaurin, chairman of Tesco, is to be congratulated on his appointment as the next chancellor of the University of Hertfordshire. Sir Ian, who went straight from Malvern College into National Service, and then to Tesco as a management trainee, never went to university. But as something of a celebrity in his home county, he is said to be delighted with the invitation from his local school of learning, which is sandwiched neatly between two giant Tesco supermarkets. Sir Brian Corby, former chairman of the Prudential and another Herts man, is standing down as chancellor after three years.

WALLS have ears in Chinatown. In the run-up to esbury's rights issue, announced yesterday, Jonathan Lane, chief executive, made the mistake of missing his daily visit to tenants on the Chinatown Estate. "The Chinese noted my absence," he explains. "They said you must be busy, you must be up to something." Next time, Mr Lane promises not to let the City interrupt his constitutional down Gerrard Street.

Open all hours

IT'S good to talk, but surely not to your boss at the weekend? J Rothschild Assurance must think so. It has issued all the home, fax, mobile and car phone numbers of its senior staff. At any time, anyone at the 1,000-strong company can put a call into senior management, including Sir Mark Weinberg, chairman, to discuss a problem out of office hours. A spokesman said: "It's all part of the culture. It's called the no-hiding policy."



"Now Railtrack has really arrived"

Launch date

THE adviser to the Association for the Monetary Union of Europe, Christopher Johnson, a former chief economic adviser to Lloyds Bank, was struggling yesterday to gather guests for the launch of his latest pro-European propaganda. In spite of the tube strike, various MPs, including Hugh Dykes and John MacGregor, made it to the launch of *In With the Euro, Out With the Pound*. But where was Sir Ted Heath, the guru who gushes on the back of the new book? "Everyone who cares about the economic well-being of the United Kingdom should read it!" At the Savoy, of course, celebrating his 80th birthday.

Peddalling a line

THE tube strike yesterday wasn't going to get in the way of Alex Sandberg, chairman of College Hill. To make sure PR clients Robert Walters and WS Atkins made it to the market without a hitch, Sandberg cycled from his home in Putney to Gresham Street. In the Seventies, he used to distribute press releases around the City from the saddle of a monkey bike. After yesterday's journey, made in 39 minutes, Sandberg boasted to colleagues that he could easily have completed it under half an hour, had he wanted to arrive hot and bothered.

MORAG PRESTON

CBI limbers up for election intent on running in neutral

Philip Bassett says business knows what it wants from government but is keen to avoid party games

Business is firing its starting-gun for the general election. Polling day may be nine months away, but the Confederation of British Industry's move this week, setting out its priorities for the election, does no more than formalise what business leaders have been mulling over: what UK business wants from an incoming government.

"We all know there's going to be a Labour government. It's just that we can't say so." The speaker is a senior businessman, a director with responsibilities for the government relations of a major privatised utility. Such private musings are now the common currency of business's political talk. Tony Blair may endlessly warn his party against electoral complacency, but for much of business and the City a Labour victory is already factored in.

CBI leaders wriggled uncomfortably on the point when questioned at the launch of their glossy manifesto, *Prospering in a Global Economy*. Such a determinedly non-political title was reflected in their parrying of attempts to get them to declare their preference in party terms — though there are many, in the Conservative Party and among CBI backwoodsmen, who regard the declaration of political neutrality in the run-up to the election as a politically partisan act, pulling business away from what they feel is its natural role of supporting the Conservatives.

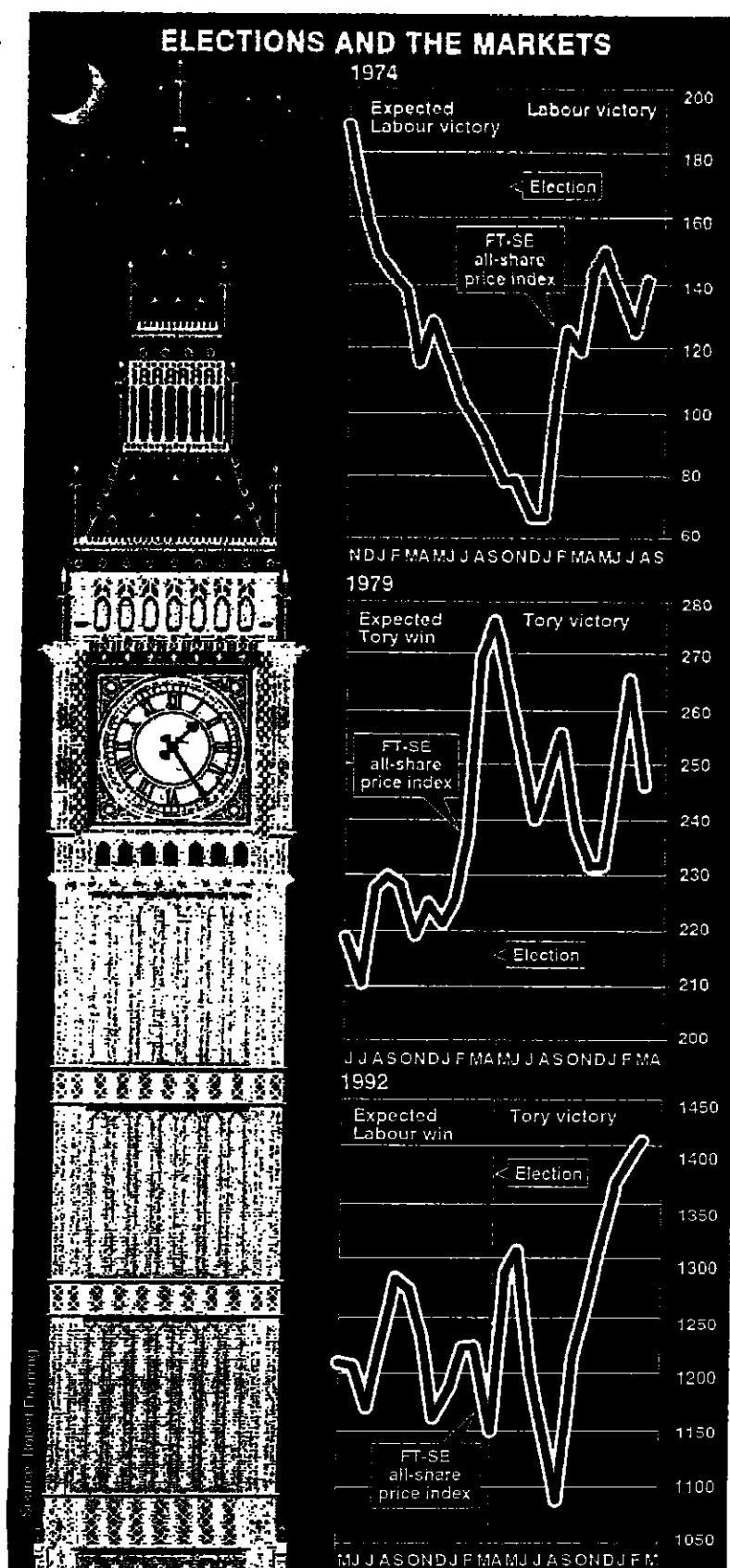
That the CBI's declaration happened to coincide with a successful address to its conference last autumn by Mr Blair only served to deepen such suspicions, and led Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, to insist openly that business had no business to sit on the fence politically.

CBI leaders are now trying to say that Mr Lang did not say that the CBI should take sides, only that companies should not, so it is worth reproducing exactly what he did say: "We have now before us an unprecedented opportunity for continued growth and prosperity," he told the CBI conference in Birmingham last November 14. "You cannot afford not to take sides. Let us continue to work together, we in Government and you in the CBI and in business, to make sure we seize that opportunity."

Pretty clear stuff, but faced with such overt pressure, the CBI has refused to buckle, and is intent under Adair Turner, its Director-General, in maintaining political neutrality, even if that is proving a strain for its current president, Sir Colin Marshall, chairman of British Airways, one of the Conservatives' favourite companies. CBI insiders remain concerned that Sir Colin could still queer the pitch of political neutrality before an election, though at the confederation's business manifesto launch he was a model of political evenness. However, at the CBI's annual dinner in May, he managed, with an election due inside 12 months, to hope publicly that John Major would be the guest speaker as Prime Minister, two years hence.

Of course, such views reflect a widespread business sentiment. Just because business largely judges that Labour will win the forthcoming election, it doesn't mean that business wants Labour to win. It doesn't; but its best guess is that Labour will win. Privately, most business leaders accept that a Blair-led Labour government would be very far from the ravaging beast that previous Labour administrations have been perceived as being.

But balanced judgments such as these won't stop business leaders who



are key political animals — Lord Hanson, Lord Sheppard and others — coming out and endorsing the Conservatives, as did 43 prominent business leaders from companies such as Tesco, Kingfisher, Taylor Woodrow, Dixons, Tarmac and BA, before the 1992 poll. Many companies have either stopped making political donations to the Tories, or make them to Labour and the Liberal Democrats as well. Such overt political neutrality, while clearly viewed by some like Mr Lang



John Major or Tony Blair: business is steering clear of a public endorsement

whose product is change, would reject such an idea, and City analysis of the markets and elections suggests that it is a hope unlikely to be realised.

The graphic by Robert Fleming, drawn from an analysis of the performance of the markets around general elections over the past 30 years, details market performance at the last election, and the last two at which Labour and the Conservatives respectively won, and suggests that elections do have an impact on the economy.

The CBI's launch of its manifesto may be a touch early. As Peter Warburton, of Robert Fleming, says: "Looking at past election periods, the market only takes the election seriously, and the possible change of government, when it is about three months away. Before that it tends to ignore it." But other business bodies are readying themselves to follow suit: the Institute of Directors, the British Chambers of Commerce, EEF, the engineering employers, the Institute of Management and the Industrial Society among others are busily drafting pre-election statements, which will present the main political parties with a clear agenda of business's political objectives.

Inevitably, all of them will be broadly similar. No business organisation is likely to be arguing that what business really needs is a good dose of wildly unstable macroeconomic policy. So what will be of close interest — to the political parties in particular — will be seeing how close, in nuance, language and tone, each business organisation comes to a particular political party, either on individual issues or, more importantly, in overall terms.

By this measure, the CBI's document is almost uncannily neutral: a quick count of its major recommendations shows four supporting key Conservative lines, four Labour and a clutch of eight backing policies common to both main parties. Given its free-market principles, the IoD is likely to be less so, especially on such key issues as EMU, to which the institute, though it has moved closer to the political and business mainstream, remains resolutely opposed.

Europe is a key issue for Britain's managers, according to the Institute of Management's draft proposals, which emphasise "constructive engagement" with the EU by the UK Government. In their manifesto to come in mid-September, EEF leaders, along with the CBI, IoD, and most other business organisations, will reject Labour's plans to sign the European social chapter and to introduce a statutory national minimum wage.

While none will be avowedly Conservative, the distance of many from key Conservative policies, and especially in their phraseology and intonation, is marked. That may be because, according to his critics, Mr Blair has adopted management-speak jargon, with which business is comfortable. It may be, too, an insurance policy: having long ignored Labour, business does not much want to find itself on the wrong end of the argument when the election merry-go-round stops.

But it may well also be because business is increasingly judging that it is a Labour, rather than a Conservative, government with which it will have to deal. Business judges that if the Tories do win again, even a Government refreshed by a further election victory will find it difficult to shake off its tiredness and fully reinvigorate itself. Acute business leaders think that may require a period in opposition, a bout of blood-letting and a new leader — and a hope that some solution to the fundamental fissure over Europe can be found.

Business believes that however moderate a new Labour government, especially a New Labour government, would be, its election would mark a decisive break with the past two decades. In that sense, the importance of the forthcoming election cannot be overstated; and so business is probably far from wrong in firing its election starting-pistol now.

Former lord of the skies faces grim battle to keep up revival

Disaster could see TWA follow

Pan Am route, says Eric Reguly

Trans World Airlines and Pan Am were America's imperial airlines. They were the first to criss-cross the oceans, sending businessmen, politicians, soldiers and tourists to Europe's grand cities and the remotest outposts of Asia and Africa. They were the symbol of the brawn and arrogance of a flourishing post-war nation.

Although the name survives with a different airline, Pan Am, whose Key West-to-Havana flights in the late 1920s launched America's international service, is now gone. Its market share began to ebb in the 1960s and stiff competition, coupled with recessions and fuel crises, left it all but grounded by the mid-1980s.

Then came Lockerbie. A bomb destroyed the public's confidence in the airline's security systems. Pan Am's jets turned into flying echo chambers overnight. Wednesday night's crash off Long Island of a TWA Boeing 747 carrying 229 passengers and crew has the

tion-mad billionaire, from 1939 to 1966. The airline initially thrived under Hughes, who ensured it had the newest technology, including pressurised cabins and four-engine aircraft that could cross the Atlantic. TWA and Pan Am began to feel the effects of competition in the 1960s — when every developing nation put a flag-carrier into the air and demanded US landing rights — but managed to keep their imperial pretences into the early 1970s, when they became the launch customers of the jumbo 747.

In spite of all the competition, soaring fuel prices and intransigent unions, TWA and Pan Am might have managed better in the 1970s and 1980s if they had overcome one glaring weakness — the lack of a substantial domestic system to feed their international routes. Pan Am had no domestic "hub", while TWA had a relatively small one in St Louis.

The three carriers with the most expensive hub net-



Hughes: airline thrived

works — American, United and Delta — were able to evolve into huge carriers, giving them the money to buy international routes from the likes of TWA, Pan Am and Eastern, another carrier that collapsed a few years ago. Mr Icahn, best known for his threats to take over Texaco and Phillips Petroleum, spotted TWA in 1984. He liked the recognition

ed on the verge of staging a remarkable comeback after surviving two bankruptcies since 1992. Only a few months ago, when TWA was celebrating the 50th anniversary of its first transatlantic flight, Jeffrey Erickson, president, announced that the airline had posted an operating profit of \$25 million in 1995, its first since 1989. Plans were made to buy or lease new Boeings, and Erickson even contemplated a new equity offering to repay part of its \$12 billion debt.

TWA's fortunes more or less mirrored Pan Am's since the 1930s. Both airlines have rich heritages, ruled the air corridors for decades and went on to stage incredible shrinking acts in a desperate effort to survive.

The carriers were gutted and TWA then had the misfortune of falling into the hands of Carl Icahn. Wall Street's last great gunslinger, Icahn had very little interest in running an airline, using it instead as a cash machine.

TWA was born Transcontinental and Western Air and was the property of Howard Hughes, the avia-

value of its name and saw the chance to slash costs by squeezing the unions. The irony is that unions embraced Icahn; he was considered preferable to Frank Lorenzo, the union-busting Texas Air chairman who also has his sights on TWA. Icahn won the airline and took it private in 1988. He all but cancelled the aircraft-replacement programme and sold its valuable London routes to American for \$445 million. Cash flow and profits soared, but the good times did not last long. Starved of investment and clobbered by the recession and the Gulf War, TWA filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in 1991. It emerged partly owned by its employees in 1993. Last year, it went back into bankruptcy again and, equipped with a debt-for-equity agreement with its creditors, came out in fighting spirit.

Although the worst was over for the airline, and its management was optimistic, TWA was still living on the edge. The crash of the 747 into the Atlantic can only increase the chances that it will become another chapter in aviation history.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Board and shareholders need to know about 'illegal calls' from inside BA

From Mr John Gorman
Sir, Your coverage of the British Airways AGM (July 16 and 17) seems to imply that my intention in attending the meeting was to be disruptive and mischievous. Far from it. As a long-standing shareholder, who has loyally attended every AGM since privatisation I am frankly embarrassed to have to bring to the attention of my fellow shareholders and the board the fact that serious criminal activities continue to be perpetrated against

me. Of course, my fellow shareholders recall with acute embarrassment the notorious British Airways dirty tricks campaign against Richard Branson and Virgin Atlantic, when large sums of our money had to be paid over in settlement, and British Airways had to make a public apology in the High Court for its disgraceful behaviour. Whilst I agree that these matters must, and will, be aired in yet another civil prosecution against British

Airways, I quite rightly pointed out to Sir Colin Marshall and Robert Ayling that they are not above the law. The shareholders applauded in support of this statement. Sir Colin's rather limp response was that he could not control what calls were made from BA. However, when I offered to play taped evidence, confirmed by British Telecom and the BBC, which proves that illegal threatening calls continue to be made from inside

BA's high security premises, the British Airways censors swung into action and my microphone was cut dead. Yours faithfully, JOHN GORMAN, Parque Residencia, Club Atlantis, Bungalow 210, San Eugenio, 38660, Playa de las Americas, Adeje, Tenerife, Canary Islands, Spain.

Thames Water's record on leaks

From Mr W. J. Alexander
Sir, Your report "Thames top of leak table" (July 8) was inaccurate. The figures quoted were not "new" but were published by Ofwat in May this year, based on statistics provided by Thames Water for 1995-96. This period included the driest summer on record and a very cold winter, which inevitably increased leakage. Other water companies reported figures for 1994-95 and so their leakage rates did not take into account these extreme weather conditions. Last year we also improved the way we calculated leakage losses, which was noted in Ofwat's report as partially accounting for increases in Thames Water's leakage rate. Thames Water is on target to meet its commitment to halve leakage by the year 2005.

Yours faithfully, W. J. ALEXANDER (Thames Water Group Managing Director), Thames Water Utilities, Nugent House, Vastern Road, Reading, Berkshire.

Unfair to Siemens

From the Chief Executive of Siemens plc
Sir, I should like to put the record straight on the claims and assumptions made in your Pennington column on July 16. The figure of £200 million, which Siemens is reckoned to have received in "sweeteners" to build our new chip plant in North Tyneside, reflects the wild stab in the dark made by your newspaper last August at the level of government and other support we could expect during the lifetime of the project.

It appears that this figure has never been corrected in your archiving system, but I suggest it should be now to avoid further mistakes, as it is probably four times the potential level of support we could receive. I say potential because the total amount of support that we shall ultimately receive is entirely dependent on our meeting committed targets in terms of investment levels and jobs created. As to our plans for the second module, we stated from the very outset that this module would always be dependent on market developments, and the same still applies.

Finally, in response to the implication that we only came to the UK for the money, but now want some more, I should like, on the one hand, to restate that more money was on offer elsewhere, and, on the other, to remind you that Siemens already has 12 factories and some 12,000 employees in the UK, which, I think, is an indicator of our commitment to this country. Moreover, Siemens in the UK invested over £130 million of our own money in research and development last year, while Siemens overall spent over £1.1 billion of our own money purchasing goods and


services from British suppliers. To imply in your article that we have inflicted some sort of "hit-and-run mugging" on the British taxpayer, therefore, is deeply insulting both to our company and the Government, which has come so far in establishing the pro-business environment in the UK that has encouraged ours and so many other inward investments. Yours faithfully, JURGEN GEHRELS, Siemens House, Oldbury, Bracknell, Berkshire.

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I am thinking of selling and would like a free auction valuation. I enclose photos/descriptions or please contact me to arrange an appointment. Please tell me about your other valuation services (probate, insurance, CGT, tax advice). I am interested in buying. Tell me about sales covering my interests, which are:

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Council liable for unnecessary health work

Welton v North Cornwall District Council

Before Lord Justice Rose, Lord Justice Ward and Lord Justice Judge
[Judgment July 17]

Where an environmental health officer negligently required the owner of food premises to undertake works which were unnecessary to secure compliance with the Food Act 1990 and regulations made thereunder, and the owner incurred substantial and unnecessary expenditure in executing the works, the local food authority was under a common law duty of care to the owner and liable in damages for the economic loss sustained.

Having regard to the particular conduct complained of, the fact that the relationship between the parties arose out of the purported exercise of statutory functions afforded no reason why the local authority should not be liable in a case which otherwise fell within common law principles of duty of care.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment dismissing an appeal by North Cornwall District Council against the award by Judge Anthony Thompson, QC, at Truro County Court on January 26, 1995, of damages of £39,522 to the plaintiffs, Victoria Welton and David John Welton, for economic loss caused by the negligence of Brian Evans, an environmental health officer employed by the local authority.

Mr Roderick Denyer, QC and Mr Peter Wadley for the local authority; Mr Philip Mott, QC and Mr Christopher Kemp for the plaintiffs.

LORD JUSTICE ROSE said that the appeal raised interesting questions as to whether, and if so in what circumstances, a duty of care was owed by a local authority in respect of its environmental health officers when they were purporting to exercise statutory powers in relation to food hygiene.

Deportation court can see all evidence used even if it is hearsay

In re Saidur Rahman

Before Mr Justice Collins
[Judgment June 26]

When hearing an application for habeas corpus in a deportation case a court could see all the evidence that the Secretary of State for the Home Department had used as the basis of his decision to deport, even if it was hearsay, although it was for the court to decide what weight to accord to it.

Mr Justice Collins so held in the Queen's Bench Division refusing the application of Saidur Rahman for a writ of habeas corpus ad subjunctum in resistance to his detention in deportation proceedings under the Immigration Act 1971.

The applicant, who had been born in Bangladesh, obtained a certificate of entitlement to join a man he had claimed to be his father, Abdus Samed, in England and thereafter became a British citizen.

The secretary of state, acting on denunciations from officers who had interviewed villagers in Bangladesh through interpreters.

The evidence suggested that the applicant was not Abdus Samed's

son and that the applicant had obtained his certificate of residence in England by deception. He was served with a notice of illegal entry and detained under paragraph 16 of Schedule 2 to the Immigration Act 1971.

Mr Michael Shrimpton for the applicant; Mr Mark Shaw for the secretary of state.

MR JUSTICE COLLINS said that the evidence from the entry clearance officers was contained in affidavits and that evidence, Mr Shrimpton said, was hearsay, indeed, double hearsay, as it had been given through interpreters. It was a very useful weapon against any attempts to restrict the liberty of the individual in an unauthorised fashion.

It was wholly right and proper that the court should look at any material that was available to the secretary of state. It was for the court to decide what weight to attach to it.

His Lordship was satisfied that it was proven to the requisite standard that the applicant was not the son of Abdus Samed and did obtain the certificate by deception.

If Mr Shrimpton were correct then the court would be precluded

from relying on some of the material that the secretary of state had relied on. That suggested that material put before the court ought to include all the material that was before the secretary of state.

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It was wholly right and proper that the court should look at any material that was available to the secretary of state. It was for the court to decide what weight to attach to it.

His Lordship was satisfied that it was proven to the requisite standard that the applicant was not the son of Abdus Samed and did obtain the certificate by deception.

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Jury entitled to convict on encouragement to kill

Regina v Giannetto

Before Lord Justice Kennedy, Mr Justice Laws and Mr Justice Maurice Kay
[Judgment June 28]

A jury was entitled to convict a defendant of murder if he was not the killer but he at least encouraged the killing.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so held in a reserved judgment dismissing the appeal of Robert Vincent Giannetto against his conviction on October 30, 1995 in Bristol Crown Court (Mr Justice Rous and a jury) of murder.

Mr J. C. T. Barton, QC, who did not appear below and Mr Ian Bullock, counsel for the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appeal; Mr Paul Chadd, QC and Mr Martin Meekes for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE KENNEDY, giving the judgment of the court, said that it was the prosecution case that the defendant had either murdered his wife himself or got someone else to do it.

It was submitted on appeal that the trial judge erred in law when he failed to direct the jury that they must be unanimous as to which of the two competing versions of events put forward by the Crown they accepted.

The proposition that a jury must all find each essential element in an offence to be proved was not

contentious: see *R v Brown* (Kevin) (1993) 79 Cr App R 115.

But in the context of the present case the decision in *Brown* seemed merely to raise the question as to what really were the essential elements of the offence which had to be proved, bearing in mind that the law had never required individual jurors to agree about everything.

In the present case the starting point was section 8 of the Accessories and Abettors Act 1861, as amended, section 65A of the Criminal Law Act 1977, the effect of which was that even if the appellant did no more than encourage someone else to kill his wife he was liable to be tried, indicted and punished as a principal offender and where, as here, the prosecution for good reason was unable to say whether the defendant did more than encourage, it must be open to them to invite the jury as a whole to find that at least he encouraged.

The jury might convict with some jurors satisfied that the defendant was actually the killer, but all jurors satisfied that he encouraged.

The authorities had been considered with some care: see, inter alia, *R v Phillips* (Daniel) (1987) 86 Cr App R 181, *Thatcher v The Queen* (1987) 39 DLR (4th) 275 and *R v Gough* (The Times July 27, 1990). Their Lordships were sat-

isfied that in the circumstances the judge had not erred in his direction.

There were two cardinal principles: (i) the jury must be agreed upon the basis on which they found a defendant guilty; (ii) a defendant must know what case he has to meet.

Where the Crown alleged that on evidence the defendant must have committed the offence either as principal or as secondary offender, and made it equally clear that they could not say which, the basis on which the jury had to be unanimous was that the defendant, having the necessary mens rea, by whatever means caused the result which was criminalised by the law.

The Crown was not required to specify the means, because the legal definition of the crime did not require it, and the defendant knew perfectly well what case he had to meet.

Of course if, as would often be the case, the Crown alleged that the defendant was a principal offender, the legal definition of the crime did not require it, and the defendant knew perfectly well what case he had to meet.

This judgment should give no encouragement to prosecutors casting round for alternative possibilities where the essential elements did not show a clear case against a defendant.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, Bristol.

MR JUSTICE KENNEDY said that the board's decision was flawed because the process for an oral hearing was not limited to cases where the raw facts were in dispute and extended to value judgments as to the significance or weight to be given to particular facts in reaching the overall evaluation.

In *The Petition of Scott Young* (unreported, August 9, 1995, Court of Session, Outer House) Lord Gill considered a similar case and said: "The references in paragraph 24(c) to 'material facts' and to 'conclusions' are references, in my view, to the primary facts and to the conclusions of a factual nature which fall to be drawn from such primary facts."

The convictions constituted material facts on which the decision was based. The petitioner did not dispute those material facts. He disputed the decision itself.

That approach was consistent with the views in *R v Criminal Injuries Compensation Board, Ex parte Crook* (1990) 2 All ER 141, decided after Mr Justice Carnwath's judgment in the present case, and represented a correct and valuable analysis of the proper construction of paragraph 24(c) of the scheme.

A proper construction of paragraph 24 required a distinction to be maintained between the conclusions and the decision. The target of the applicant's attack was the decision not to make an award. That did not entitle him to an oral hearing.

Lord Justice Rose agreed and Lord Justice Ward delivered a dissenting judgment.

Solicitors: Treasury Solicitor; Collyer-Bristow for Miss Angela Harding, Manchester.

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Act does not confer power on court

Hardy v Focus Insurance Co (in Liquidation)

Neither section 303(1) nor (2) of the Insolvency Act 1986 could be used to give the court jurisdiction to give directions to the Official Receiver as to the performance of his public law function of deciding whether or not to make an application for suspension of a bankrupt's discharge.

Mr Justice Robert Walker so held in the Chancery Division on June 21, in setting aside an order made June 8, 1995, made in Colchester County Court by District Judge Bailey on the ex parte application of the respondent, Focus Insurance Co Ltd (in liquidation), whereby he ordered that "pursuant to section 303(1) of the Insolvency Act 1986" the relevant period of the purposes of section 279 of that Act should cease to run until that application was disposed of or further order.

The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board did not act unlawfully in refusing an oral hearing to an applicant who was refused compensation because of his criminal convictions.

In dismissing the degree to which the applicant's character and previous convictions should be taken into account in assessing compensation, rather than disputing the fact of the convictions themselves, the applicant was disputing the decision of the board and not a material fact or conclusion which would entitle him to an oral hearing under paragraph 24(c) of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme 1990 (Cmd 2434).

The Court of Appeal, Civil Division, so held, Lord Justice Ward dissenting, allowing an appeal by the board against the decision of Mr Justice Carnwath in *The Times* December 20, 1995 quashing the board's decision on January 19, 1994 to refuse the applicant, Richard Dickson, an oral hearing following an officer's refusal of compensation on the ground of the applicant's character as shown by his previous criminal convictions.

Paragraph 24 of the 1990 Scheme provides: "An applicant will be entitled to an oral hearing only if... (c) no award or a reduced award was made and there is a dispute as to the material facts or conclusions upon which the... decision was based... If it is considered on review that if any

of the vehicle.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Kennedy, Mr Justice Laws and Mr Justice Maurice Kay) so stated on June 20, when dismissing the appeal of William Marsh against his conviction on September 5, 1995 at Preston Crown Court (Miss Recorder L. Newton) of aggravated vehicle taking contrary to section 12A of the 1968 Act, on a plea of guilty following a preliminary ruling on a point of law.

MR JUSTICE LAWS said that the judge ruled that the appellant was guilty of the offence if he had committed the basic offence of taking a car without consent and thereafter an accident occurred by which injury was caused to any person, whether or not he was in any way liable for the accident.

In this case an accident had occurred in which a pedestrian was injured, but the Crown had not ruled on any evidence of fault in the appellant's driving.

Applying the ordinary canons of statutory construction it was impossible to say that the words of section 12A(2)(b) imported a requirement of fault in the driver's driving.

The ordinary meaning of the words was simple and pointed to a requirement of a causal connection between the driven vehicle and the accident. No word suggesting fault appeared. The judge had construed the subsection correctly.

The authorities stated that in a non-convention case the welfare of the child was the only consideration that governed the courts. To elevate article 13 into some test was to fly in the face of those authorities.

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Welfare of child paramount

In re P (a Minor) (Abduction)

Where a child was abducted to England from a country which was not a party to the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, incorporated into English law by section 1 of the Child Abduction and Custody Act 1985, the English court, in considering whether or not the child should be ordered to be returned to the country where he habitually resided, should give paramount consideration to the overall welfare of the child.

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Criminal injuries applicant not entitled to oral hearing

Regina v Criminal Injuries Compensation Board, Ex parte Dickson

Before Lord Justice Rose, Lord Justice Ward and Lord Justice Judge
[Judgment July 1]

The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board did not act unlawfully in refusing an oral hearing to an applicant who was refused compensation because of his criminal convictions.

In dismissing the degree to which the applicant's character and previous convictions should be taken into account in assessing compensation, rather than disputing the fact of the convictions themselves, the applicant was disputing the decision of the board and not a material fact or conclusion which would entitle him to an oral hearing under paragraph 24(c) of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme 1990 (Cmd 2434).

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THEATRE 1

The art of the vast spectacle: it's all a matter of military precision... and prayer



THEATRE 2

Hey, let's do a Jane Austen right here! The King's Head gives *Emma* the informal treatment

THE TIMES ARTS



MUSIC

Alban Berg's songs are performed by Glyndebourne's new Lulu, Christine Schäfer

TOMORROW

How will London's new nude musical, *Voyeurz*, compare with the fleshy wonders of *Oh! Calcutta*?

RECITAL

The last word

International Songmakers Wigmore Hall

THE theme of the first and last songs of composers from Beethoven to Berg inspired Graham Johnson as devisor, commentator and pianist to eloquence worthy of Jacques in his Seven Ages of Man, when International Songmakers returned to the Wigmore Hall on Wednesday.

The German soprano and mezzo, Christine Schäfer, and the young Icelandic baritone Finnur Bjarnason, helped Johnson relate an affectionate pilgrim's progress. He mined no words about Beethoven's first songs, *Der Kuss*, accusing the composer of boorishness in the coarse little ditty boldly sung by Bjarnason. And then came the last, visionary song, the *Abendlied* under *gestirnen Himmel*, with Schäfer's soprano and Johnson's piano-playing recreating Beethoven's own starry night.

On Schubert's first (*Der Jungling am Bache*) and Mendelssohn's first and last (*Der Verlassene* (Abandoned)), written when he was 12, and the *Altdeutsches Frühlinglied* only days before his death.

On through Brahms and Wolf to Debussy, whose first song was a waltz for a coloratura mistress, ably reincarnated in Schäfer, and to Reynaldo Hahn, who at 13 composed *Si mes amants des ailes* and probably never wrote a better song: Doufexis was velvet to Schäfer's wild silk.

Fauré's *Je me suis embarqué* showed Bjarnason well at ease in the French idiom, while his performance of Shostakovich's final *Immortality*, found the weight to balance the starry piano-writing of a tune the composer wrote when he was nine.

After the interval Schäfer, Glyndebourne's own Lulu, focused on the early songs of Alban Berg. Johnson's readings from Berg's love letters to his wife, apostrophising her art and her voice, would have been enough to make any soprano feel inadequate. But Schäfer was more than equal to her task, and Doufexis and Bjarnason enjoyed their own darker songs, *Winter. Regen* and the final *Grüßli*.

HILARY FINCH

As the Olympics open, Andy Lavender learns how to throw a world-class party

The big bang theorists

If, late tonight, you tune in to the opening ceremony of the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta, you will watch one of the biggest live shows ever staged. The creative types at Don Mischler Productions, who are organising the whole jamboree, are jealously guarding their secrets, but you can expect massed choirs, drumming from 100 percussionists and Jessye Norman singing *Altius, Citius, Fortius* ("Higher, Faster, Stronger") for those who have forgotten their Latin.

But these are said to be mere fragments of a mega-show, the staging of which involves more than 9,000 people. World records will be broken even before the sporting business begins.

It is not only in America that size is everything. England, too, has its exponents of the huge extravaganza, and they work in different dimensions to you and me. When they say "fireworks in the garden", they mean hundreds of pyrotechnics choreographed to music at Buckingham Palace.

When they casually mention a "flying visit", they are generally referring to an aerobic exhibition by the Red Arrows. Given the precision with which such spectacles must be organised, it seems appropriate that one of Britain's leading producers in this field should be a former Army officer. Major Michael Parker keeps in touch with his first career by producing the *Royal Tournament*, but that must be a breeze compared with last year's *magnum opus*: the VE-Day celebrations at Hyde Park and Buckingham Palace.

Consider that Parker had at his disposal more than 40 acres of parkland; that the participants over the three days included tri-service massed bands, free-fall parachutists, a barbershop chorus of 100, a male voice choir of 3,000 and a flypast of vintage aircraft with, as a final trifle, a huge firework and laser display. To complicate matters, there were 57 heads of state to consider.

"Somehow I find it easier to do things on a grand scale," Parker says. "Ask me to organise a parish fête and I'd be absolutely useless. Ask me to

organise the largest children's party in the world, with 180,000 underprivileged children, a million portions of food and the longest sausage on Earth and I'm really quite good." That was in 1985, and must have been quite a bash.

Apart from emphasising the virtues of meticulous planning and close teamwork, Parker stresses the more creative side to his work, even in traditional areas such as the ubiquitous firework display. "We always try to co-ordinate the fireworks exactly and to have many different moods, not just 'bang, bang, bang' all the time," he says. "It worked particularly well when we did a very unusual display for the G7 Summit [in 1991] in the quadrangle of Buckingham Palace, with fireworks coming off the roofs and the balconies."

The major is a regular purveyor of royal good times. It was he, for instance, who organised the fireworks in 1981 on the eve of the wedding between Charles and Diana, and his next regal assignment is the Queen's golden wedding anniversary next year, a modest affair at Ascot involving more than 1,000 horses. It is difficult to know whether this will prove less taxing than the celebration he staged for King Hussein of Jordan, featuring 100 camels.

Let us turn, however, to more demotic entertainments. The most recent of these, of course, accompanied Euro '96. The opening and closing ceremonies at Wembley Stadium were the responsibility of Tony Ball, who is chairman of his own marketing and production agency, Tony Ball Associates, and one of a small band of blue-chip showmen.

"I describe our business as 'industrial theatre'," Ball says. "It isn't theatre for entertainment's sake, pure and simple, but the projection of a message, product or event which has a commercial purpose and perhaps an international importance."

"With Euro '96 we were playing to an audience of more than 400 million people. If it goes wrong, it goes wrong in a big way. It's very scary, but very exciting."

Ball and his colleagues devised an opening ceremony with a narrative of sorts, moving from a medieval setting in which St George slew the Dragon, to a history of the development of football, to a high-tech finale. Parachutists landed on the Wembley turf bearing the flags of the participating nations. Mick Hucknall sang the Euro '96 anthem (or dirge, depending on your view), *We're In This Together*, and the Red Arrows flew above the stadium releasing red, white and blue smoke.



Lighting the sky: fireworks must be more than "just 'bang, bang, bang' all the time"

You might think that this is roast beef and dumplings compared with, say, the opening and closing ceremonies at the Barcelona Olympics, fondly remembered for their imaginative panache. Nevertheless, you cannot deny that the logistics of such an operation are daunting.

"We had to liaise with the civil aviation authorities, Brent Council, the police, the broadcasters and Wembley Stadium," Ball says, "and co-ordinate everything in a time schedule which would run to the second. And we had contingencies ready in case, say, the cloud level wouldn't allow the parachutists to come in, or if it rained and the orchestra

couldn't appear, or if there had been a crowd problem outside the ground."

The next huge celebration comes in the shape of the millennium festivities in three years' time, which are being organised by the design consultancy Imagination. "We believe the most important thing is never to forget the Big Idea," says Ralph Ardill, the company's marketing director. In this instance the notion of time provides the central theme, and is accompanied by a Big Strategy.

"We want to create a programme of regional activities," Ardill explains, "culminating with the millennium celebrations on the

Greenwich peninsula, that give the country an opportunity to participate rather than merely spectate."

It remains to be seen how this will be achieved, but those who enjoy painting on the largest possible canvas are already preparing their brushes. Do such massive public entertainments constitute an art, however, or are they merely an exercise in military-style organisation?

"The great rule is: if it's easy to do, it's not worth doing," Parker says. "Unless it's vast, it's not going to capture people's imaginations. And if you're 100 per cent certain it's going to work, you must be doing the wrong thing."

LONDON THEATRE

Haven't we seen this one before?

Emma King's Head

JANE AUSTEN Industries pic cranks on, and on and on, turning out products that merge in my mind into *Northanger Sensibility*, or *Prejudice Abbey*, or *Pride and Persuasion Park*. At least Michael Fry's production of his own adaptation of *Emma* has an amiable, informal feel, in keeping with the atmosphere of the King's Head.

The prevailing style is signalled right away. Three Regency belles, decked out in Jennifer Ehle designer dresses, dance onstage and proclaim their wish to put on a play. But what shall it be? *The Rivals*, or Austen's own *Sir Charles Grandison*? No, they just happen to have three copies of *Emma* and, before you can say Colin Firth, they have not only started narrating the book's opening lines but have been joined by two Regency bucks who already know everything thought or said by Messrs Knightley, Elton, Weston et al.

In the programme Fry describes this as "a distancing device", though I cannot see why he needs one. It comes across more as an excuse for an ad-hoc set and a lot of jokey doubling, trebling and, in one case, quadrupling. Fortunately, this last case happens to be Katherine Fry, who has undeniable comic gifts. One minute she is Emma Woodhouse's friend Harriet Smith, naively giggling from beneath a wig sired by a rooster on a haystack, and the next she is the awful arriviste Mrs Elton, donating words like "barricade landau" and "Maple

Grove" to the conversation in the manner of Lady Bountiful endowing an almshouse.

Either you know the story already, or I will risk spoiling your enjoyment of the five movies, three mini-series, two operas, and one ballet-on-ice about to be based on Austen's original. Enough to say that Clara Salaman makes a pleasant heroine; Jonathan Chesser's Elton comes across as a dim, bouncing cleric escaped from the musical *By Your Side*; and Antony Edridge has the emotional and physical weight for Mr Moral Reproach, aka Knightley.

Five performers are not quite enough: which is why cloth-faced dolls occasionally appear and why Mr Woodhouse is played sometimes by Sally Mortimore in a blanket and sometimes by a large broom. Either way, one of Austen's most entertaining characters goes missing, as does his most celebrated line: "an egg boiled very soft is not unwholesome". Or did I fail to hear this in the narrative fizz of a production so quick-fire that the already mysterious Jane Fairfax is inscrutably said, not to be parentless, but to "have been unfortunate enough to lose both her parents"? Lucky, isn't it, that Jane Austen heroines always carry a third pair in reserve.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Situations vacant

Channel Four Sitcom Festival Riverside Studios

THE Channel Four Sitcom Festival continues with another trio of half-hour pilot shows, potential television series being tested on live audiences. Sporadically tickling but hardly side-splitting, this week's threesome sees the funny side of cut-throat family businesses and farcically inefficient offices.

Last Legs, by Paul Shearer and Lenny Barker, is a kind of spoof *Dallas* set up North. Jack Pike (William Gaunt) is a Yorkshire tycoon. Chewing on his cigar and belching, he is ruthlessly dodging his prissy pin-striped heirs. Meanwhile, his eldest son (Robert Bathurst) is secretly masterminding a takeover bid.

There are flashes of hilarity, but the script seems strangled for jokes, and William Burdett-Coutts's cast are not fully galvanised.

The Magnificent Andersons, by David Upsher and Diana Fox, has more potential, picking up on a married couple who hope to make it as a double-act on the comedy circuit but are biting each other's heads off at home.

Andy Riley and Kevin Cecil hit on a satirically promising

scenario in *Bleeding Hearts*, set in the communal offices of a charity organisation inappropriately called Action Now. Eluned Hawkins's hopelessly democratic manager offers to phone the trustees to complain about herself whenever she almost takes a decision.

Meanwhile, Sarah the teenage volunteer throws militant tantrums. Bathurst, as Alan the lecherous aid worker, drapes himself hopefully across the women's desks. But the storyline feels incoherent, and the acting is up and down.

Really, the fun of this festival, when the scripts aren't quite up to scratch, is seeing an ensemble of established actors tackling the whole season, and being prepared to stand up in front of an audience when still feeling their way into sketchily-written characters.

KATE BASSETT

Late Opening at the National Gallery Wednesdays until 8pm

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Tickets: £5, concessions £3
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NATIONAL GALLERY

THEATRE IN IRELAND

New tack for old salt

GALWAY'S Macnas troupe originally developed its unique, loud and physical performance style for outdoor shows and parades. In recent years, however, the company has attempted to move indoors, finding a way to blend spectacular stunts and costumes with more complex theatrical storytelling.

The latest stage in this journey under cover is *Rhymes from the Ancient Mariner*, the inaugural production in Galway's brand new performance space. The venue should suit Macnas' style well. There is no stage in the hangar-like building — just plenty of space, enough for an indoor parade, complete with two bands and a tiny armada of floats.

Even with Coleridge as scriptwriter of the proto-environmentalist text, *Rhymes* opts against relying too heavily on the spoken word, instead investing most of its energy in these immense set pieces, tightly choreographed movement and live music.

Rod Goodall, the director, translates the original poem's framing device, a wedding, to a rowdy nuptial celebration in the west of Ireland, complete with a despot father-of-the-bride and a beer-bellied skiffle quartet, churning out waltz-

Rhymes from the Ancient Mariner
Black Box, Galway

time Lonnie Donegan covers. Macnas use the chaotic wedding scenario as a launchpad for some dynamic interaction with the audience. Not until the bride and groom and their guests have arrived, bumping and dancing their way through the audience, does the Ancient Mariner show up, dropped from high above in a diving helmet, bang in the centre of the wedding cake.

As he begins to unburden himself to the father-of-the-bride, a curtain opens to reveal the full extent of the theatre and the set. The audience promenades through islands and iceflows, catches sight of a pool of writhing, luminous slime and an orchestra perched on top of a mountain, moves along a thronged quayside and scrambles to avoid the advancing bows of a sailing ship.

Soon the Mariner and his crew are sailing the Southern seas of the auditorium, getting caught in living ice — great transparent shards filled with

howling actors — and eventually siting the cursed albatross (trapeze artist Zoe Maistre, dancing high above the crowd in a white jumpsuit).

With activity on this grand scale, performances and vocal performances in particular, have apparently suffered a lack of attention. The cast interact boisterously with the audience on an individual level, but when isolated on the show's various moving stages they instantly become stiffer and less engaging.

Most of the drama is conducted in a broad, pantomime style. Nevertheless, more inspiring verse recitations would certainly have added force to the production. As it was, the lines hissed by the Mariner (Midge Corcoran), were far too flimsy. At this wedding feast, the trimmings are undeniably more enjoyable than the main dish.

It is only when the Mariner has finally completed his rime, and the wedding band has reappeared, that the production picks up speed again. Precious energy returns, but only as the happy couple run from the building, where a waiting Morris Minor speeds them into the Corrib sunset.

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CHOICE 1

Andrew Davis conducts Haydn's Creation to open the Proms

VENUE: Tonight at the Albert Hall, and on BBC2



CHOICE 2

Lesley Garrett brings a touch of glamour to the arias in Chester

VENUE: Tonight in Grosvenor Park

THE TIMES ARTS

POP

A small change of direction for the Black Crowes on their new *Three Snakes and One Charm*



POP 2

Music or mush? As Toni Braxton soars to dizzy heights of fame, her material gets worse

David Sinclair hears the Black Crowes lighten up and fly straight at the charts

Reasons to be cheerful (partly)

MUNDY

To You I Bestow
(Epic 059766 346229)
MUNDY, a 21-year-old singer and songwriter from Burr, County Offaly, is the latest in a steady stream of Irish musical exports, and his new single is a heartfelt folk-rock song performed with that stirring sense of mission so typical of that country's performers. "My love for you is better than diamonds/To you everything I bestow," he promises in a brogue that recalls the troubadour style of Mike Scott, while the band conjures up a suitably windswept backdrop with shimmering electric and acoustic guitars and a distant harmonica riding a firm up-tempo beat. A thunderous roll of tomtoms brings the song to a mighty climax.

BLACK CROWES

Three Snakes and One Charm
(American/BMG 74321 38484)
BUFFETED by internal strife and no doubt chastened by the comparatively modest sales of their previous offering, *America*, the Black Crowes have rung a few changes on *Three Snakes and One Charm*, their fourth album. For whereas *America* was a gloriously uncompromising celebration of the big riff, harnessed to a variety of bone-deep funk-rock grooves, *Three Snakes* is a much more considered affair. There are still plenty of bumpy, stop-start chord sequences, and singer Chris Robinson continues to croak, yell and splutter his way through numbers such as the Sly Stone-influenced *Only Halfway To Everywhere* like a dog baying at the moon. But there is a lighter touch as well, such as on the reflective *Bring On, Bring On* and the acoustic *Better When You're Not Alone*, the latter being barely recognisable as a Black Crowes song. And even on the rootsy strut of *Under a Mountain* or the chunky prog-rock riffing of *Nabokov*, the tunes and choruses have been granted a new priority status.



Cheer up, dear old Black Crowes, there are much worse things to be than successful

TONI BRAXTON

Secrets
(LaFace/Arista 73008-26020)
HAVING sold ten million copies of her debut album, Toni Braxton is approaching the dizzy heights of success, inhabited by that select breed of pop divas on first-name terms with the world. Like Whitney and Mariah, Toni has a tremendous singing technique, her vocal signature being a lovely, rounded tone that often drops to a deep, sensual growl. But there seems to be something about artists who breathe the thin oxygen at that rarefied level that turns their music to mush.

Produced and written in large part by Kenneth "Babyface" Edmonds, with contributions from Tony Rich and R. Kelly among others, *Secrets* is a collection of modern soul and swingbeat love songs arranged in various shades of slow. Some, such as her current hit, *You're Makin' Me High*, are mildly seductive, and there is a dark twist to *Talking in His Sleep* that elevates it above the stylised sweet-talk that is otherwise the norm. But the album suffers from a preponderance of slushy ballads such as *There's No Me Without You* and *Find Me A Man* with such abjectly submissive lyrics that you feel her next step should be to sign up for a course in self-assertion.

TOP TEN ALBUMS

- 1 Jagged Little Pill... Alanis Morissette (Maverick)
- 2 Moseley Shoals... Ocean Colour Scene (MCA)
- 3 The Very Best Of... Crowded House (Capitol)
- 4 The Smurfs Go Pop!... Smurfs (EMI TV)
- 5 Falling Into You... Celine Dion (Epic)
- 6 The Score... Fugees (Columbia)
- 7 (What's the Story) Morning Glory?... Oasis (Creation)
- 8 Older... George Michael (Virgin)
- 9 1977... Ash (Infectious)
- 10 Ocean Drive... Lighthouse Family (Wild Card)

LONDON

BBC PROMS 96. The annual Henry Wood Promenade Concerts are upon us once again, and the 102nd season opens with Haydn's *Creation* (tonight, 7.30pm). Andrew Davis conducts the BBC Symphony Orchestra and Chorus, with Julian Bann, soprano, Hans Peter Schütz, tenor, and Wolfgang Schöne, bass. On Saturday (8pm), Bernard Haitink conducts the Royal Opera House Orchestra and Chorus in an Italian version of Verdi's *La Traviata*. On Sunday (7.30pm) brings the weekend to a close, performed by the London Sinfonietta under Markus Stenz. Sung in German, Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 8212) Tonight-Sun.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY. Sir Edward Heath celebrates his 80th birthday by conducting the English Chamber Orchestra in Weber's *Oberon* overture. Debut of the new *Summer Night* on the River, Mozart's Piano Concerto No 17 and Schubert's magical Fifth Symphony. The evening ends with Handel's *Water Music* and a spectacular fireworks display. Kewwood Lakeside, Hempstead Lane, NW3 (0171-413 1443) Tomorrow, 7.30pm.

THE RED BALLOON. Anthony Clark's enchanting stage version of the classic

WEEKEND CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Massey

1860s French film. Already seen in Manchester, Bristol and Birmingham, it now comes floating into London. *Ruin* (tonight, 7.30pm), South Bank, SE1 (0171-238 2262). Preview tonight tomorrow, 3pm and 7pm. Then in rep.

ELSEWHERE

BURTON. A limited number of tickets remain for a co-production by Opera North and the Lyric Theatre, Belfast, of John Gay's musical *The Beggar's Opera* (tonight, 7.30pm; Sunday, 2.30pm). On Saturday (7.30pm), the Opera Theatre Company, Dublin, stage *Amadeus*. Handel's magic opera in three acts. Opera House, Water Street (01206 72100). Tonight-Sunday.

CHESTER. The evening's concert (Grosvenor Park, 8pm) by the "soprano in red", Lesley Garrett, is a sell-out, but there may be slim chance of returns. Tickets are selling fast, too. The BBC Philharmonic concert on Saturday (Chester Cathedral, 8pm). The conductor Van Pelt Tonder leads the orchestra in Mendelssohn's Piano Concerto No 2 (soloist Leon McCawley).

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

House full, returns only
Some seats available
Sells at all prices

Barbican, St. Street, EC2 (0171-438 8891). Tonight and tomorrow, 7.15pm; mat. Sat. 2pm. In rep. **5**
MARTIN GUERRE. The latest Bouffé and Schönborg musical, set to the success of *Les Mis* and *Miss Saigon*. Decan Donnell directs a cast led by Ian Goss and Julie Coton. Palace Theatre, Old Compton St, W1 (0171-447 5400). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mat. Thurs and Sat, 3pm.
THE MEMORY OF WATER. Terry Johnson directs a play by new author straight Stephen Lee, among the squabbling that follow a mother's funeral, though she still appears in the play. The cast includes Mary Jo Randle and Haydn Gwynne. Hampstead, Swiss Cottage Centre, NW3 (0171-222 9301). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat. Sat, 4pm.
NORTHAMPTON ABBEY. Sarah Jane Hurn plays Jane Austen's young friend in the Gothic shock-horror *Constance*. Matthew Francis directs a pleasing adaptation. Greenleaf, Crown Hill, SE10 (0181-626 7785). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mat. Sat, 2.30pm. Until August 17.

THE ODD COUPLE

Jack Klugman, Tony Randall play the two divorced husbands, slob and fusspot, in a revival of Neil Simon's comedy. Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (0171-496 8800). Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat 8.15pm; mat. Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 3pm.

RAIN SNAKES. Fascinating play, set in Hans Christian Andersen's Copenhagen, exploring the emotional costs of ambition. Strong performances by Sam Thomas, Jason Morda, Robert David Macdonald. Last week. Young Vic, 66 The Oct, SE1 (0171-808 6863). Tonight and tomorrow, 7.45pm.

ROLL WITH THE PUNCHES. Bolinda Long, George Collier and Paul J. Medford in an enjoyable song-through musical women from the songs of Paul Simon. Old Compton St, W1 (0171-447 5400). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat. Sat, 4pm. Until August 10.

LONG RUNNERS

Centre New London (0171-405 0072)
Communications. Debra Savoy (0171-416 6000).
Johnson: Victoria Palace (0171-434 1317).
Meat & Potatoes (0171-436 1443).
Oliver: Palladium (0171-494 5020).
The Phantom of the Opera: Her Majesty's (0171-494 5400).
Starlight Express: Apollo Victoria (0171-416 6554).
The Woman in Black: Fortune (0171-438 2238).
Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatres.

MGM Chelsea (0171-352 5098)
Odeon: Kensington (01426-914 859)
Swire: Chelsea (01426-914 859)
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MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE (PG)
Rousing sci-fi action with the stars, even Tom Cruise, in this engendered of the television series. With John Voight, Vanessa Redgrave and Emmanuelle Béart. Director: Brian De Palma. ABC Tottenham Court Road (0171-436 8148) Barbican (0171-438 8891)
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Belgian action movie set at Alcatraz, with Nicolas Cage, Sean Connery and Ed Harris. MGM: Baker Street (0171-935 9772)
Starlight Express (U)
Kensington (01426-914 859) Swire: Chelsea (01426-914 859) West End (01426-914 859) Virgin: Fulham Road (0171-370 2636) R6 (0171-254 6677)

UP CLOSE & PERSONAL (15)
Love and cliché in a television newsroom. Paper-thin romantic drama with Michelle Pfeiffer and Robert Redford. Director: John Avnet. Empire (0171-430 0331) Odeon: Leicester (01426-914 859)

THE TRUTH ABOUT CATS AND DOGS (18)
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Victor Hugo meets the Disney animators. A powerful, and powerfully successful, tale of the caddy and the hunchback. Director: Gary Trousdale and Kirk Wise. Barbican (0171-438 8891)
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KINGPIN (12)
Unholy comedy about hustlers on the road, with Woody from *Back to the Future*. Director: Peter and Bobby Farrelly. MGM: Chelsea (0171-352 5096)

NEW RELEASES

LES APPRENTIS (15)
Meandering adventures of French youths. Weak comedy by Pierre Salvadori, with François Cluzet and Guillaume Canet. ABC Chelsea Centre (0171-439 4470) MGM: Tottenham (0171-434 0031)

HAPPY GILMORE (12)
Blue-collar guy hits the golf links. So far, a grating television comedy. Alan Sandler. Director: Dennis Dugan. MGM: Tottenham (0171-434 0031) Palace (0171-434 0031) Warner (0171-434 0031)

HUSTLER WHITE (18)
Adventures of a man hustles on Santa Monica Boulevard. Rough-hewn and unappealing. Directors: Bruce LaBruce and Rick Castro. RCA: Chelsea (0171-352 5096)

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CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and elsewhere. Indicated with the symbol *

on release across the country

Tottenham (0171-434 0031)
Odeon: Kensington (01426-914 859)
Swire: Chelsea (01426-914 859)
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Belgian action movie set at Alcatraz, with Nicolas Cage, Sean Connery and Ed Harris. MGM: Baker Street (0171-935 9772)
Starlight Express (U)
Kensington (01426-914 859) Swire: Chelsea (01426-914 859) West End (01426-914 859) Virgin: Fulham Road (0171-370 2636) R6 (0171-254 6677)

UP CLOSE & PERSONAL (15)
Love and cliché in a television newsroom. Paper-thin romantic drama with Michelle Pfeiffer and Robert Redford. Director: John Avnet. Empire (0171-430 0331) Odeon: Leicester (01426-914 859)

THE TRUTH ABOUT CATS AND DOGS (18)
Pleasant romantic comedy about mistaken identity, with Janeane Garofalo, Uma Thurman and Ben Stiller. Director: Michael Lemmon. ABC Tottenham Court Road (0171-436 8148) Barbican (0171-438 8891)
Roll With The Punches (U)
Bolinda Long, George Collier and Paul J. Medford in an enjoyable song-through musical women from the songs of Paul Simon. Old Compton St, W1 (0171-447 5400). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat. Sat, 4pm. Until August 10.

THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME (U)
Victor Hugo meets the Disney animators. A powerful, and powerfully successful, tale of the caddy and the hunchback. Director: Gary Trousdale and Kirk Wise. Barbican (0171-438 8891)
Roll With The Punches (U)
Bolinda Long, George Collier and Paul J. Medford in an enjoyable song-through musical women from the songs of Paul Simon. Old Compton St, W1 (0171-447 5400). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat. Sat, 4pm. Until August 10.

KINGPIN (12)
Unholy comedy about hustlers on the road, with Woody from *Back to the Future*. Director: Peter and Bobby Farrelly. MGM: Chelsea (0171-352 5096)

THE CABLE GUY (12)
Obsessive comedy with Jim Carrey as a pathological cable television technician. With Matthew Broderick. Director: Ben Stiller. Columbia Picture House (0171-498 3322) MGM: Chelsea (0171-352 5096)

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POP 3

Eclectic and a touch eccentric: Afro Celt Sound System sum up the spirit of a Womad festival



POP 4

Even the gangly Jarvis Cocker was all but invisible at the appalling T-in-the-Park

THE TIMES ARTS

BLUES

Sonny Rhodes, with steel guitar on lap and turban on head, is showcased on a new CD

JAZZ

Complex, subtle and many-layered: Maria Schneider's arrangements are collected on a new recording



Cattle are better treated

If Glastonbury is the peach of pop festivals, last weekend's T-in-the-Park must be the pits

There is a general mis-information deal going on with festivals. Promoted as a thrilling rock'n'roll rollercoaster ride full of camaraderie, good vibes, exotic cuisine and bands all playing as if it's the last night at Woodstock, they turn out to be fields full of drunken future convicts spoiling for a fight: gut-rot in a bun, and bands like Kula Shaker playing their one hit and unreasonably expecting applause for doing so.

Within three hours of arriving at the festival, disappointment begins to set in. Your life hasn't changed and there isn't a decent band on until tomorrow. The mark of a good festival is whether things improve after this point. Glastonbury, the most perfectly formed festival on this earth, provides ample opportunities for escaping festival depression: fields full of naked pagans standing on their heads; people dressed as sausages trying to interest you in the worshipping of the sun god Ra; lots of relaxed people with purple hair who are more than happy to direct you to the nearest, sacred toilet. The organisation is well-oiled and all encompassing without ever being obtrusive, and one gets the general feeling that one is a treasured guest of Michael Eavis, the organiser. This feeling is compounded by hearing stories of people who have indulged in dangerous, mind-bending drugs and remain, hidden in trees, after the festival has ended. Eavis coaxes them down and keeps them as guests at his farmhouse for a few days, before finding out their addresses and driving them home.

I can't imagine the same thing happening with the organisers of last weekend's T-in-the-Park festival in Scotland. I rather suspect that if one was a personal house guest of the organisers, one would be charged a supplement every time they made you a cup of tea. I imagine this being the case if you were their child and it was your birthday. T-in-the-Park is a two-day investment opportunity held in the open air in Hamilton, near Glasgow, at which bands happen to play. I have never before

attended a concert with audiences in excess of 60,000 where no large video screens were provided. With crowds of that size, the majority of the audience is about 200 yards away from the stage. When you have spent three weeks' wages on attending the whole event, you expect to see some small part of what's going on. Even with Jarvis Cocker, who is around eight feet tall, it was like watching a singing Crimplene flea circus through the wrong end of a telescope.

Secondly, it was a little disturbing to see children of eight and nine with sponsors' T-shirts pinned to their faces by resident face-painters. It became tasteless when one spent any time at all outside the festival area. Here were about 2,000 ticketless punters drinking Buckfast tonic wine; some trying to snatch tickets from those who had them; groping female security staff, and instigating constant little

spats with riot-shielded police. Watching endless streams of unconscious drunks being stretched to ambulances, beneath billowing, 50ft Tennants "T" flags, was one of those jokes without any humour.

The scariest thing of all, though, in a fraught two days, was the utter lack of co-ordination between the festival site and the main camping area. The two were separated by a motorway lined with police cars, to prevent drunken campers crossing the road to get to bed. The correct and official way back to the tents was by festival bus. However, transport arrangements were so poor that queues were more than a mile long for the buses; campers were falling asleep while standing in line. One can only imagine what it would have been like on a cold, rainy night.

Even cattle don't get treated like cattle these days: after all the BSE scares they are now in centrally heated barns with en suite fields, being fed fresh vegetables and given proper psychological counselling before their slaughter. At T-in-the-Park, though, the cattle had their wallets briskly emptied and their faces painted with bright red "T"s before being left to fend for themselves.



CAITLIN MORAN

Nigel Williamson welcomes the Womad festival of world music, which begins today



Into the melting pot: Afro Celt Sound System produce a unique and exciting blend of the musics of Senegal, Ireland and a Breton druid harpist

Thumb pianos from Zimbabwe, zithers from Madagascar, dance music from the barrios of Havana and a troupe of women drummers from Wagogo. The Womad festival, a joyous celebration of exotic sounds from around the world, is with us again.

World music always was a silly title. Yet ever since Peter Gabriel financed the first Womad, back in 1982, the name has stuck in a business that is unable to grapple with anything new until a label can be hung on it. Fourteen years on, Womad is an established and unique part of the festival season in Britain, representing a vibrant concept of marrying music from different cultures and giving worldwide exposure to artists who otherwise might never be heard outside their own backyards.

Yet this weekend's three-day event at Reading is only a small part of the global picture. Womad stages about a dozen festivals a year around the world and has taken its message of musical eclecticism to more than 40 countries. Thomas Brooman, its visionary artistic director, who has been with Womad since the outset, now spends his time trawling the globe for fresh venues and new artists. He is currently planning events in Australia, New Zealand and Singapore and has been looking for a suitable festival site in the Arizona desert. During the Venice carnival this year, Womad followed Pink Floyd and Paul McCartney in staging only the third ever contemporary music concert in St Mark's Square.

If this sounds grand, it was not always so. When Gabriel and Brooman organised the first Womad at Shepton Mallet, Somerset, with the drummers of Burundi, Echo and the Bunnymen, the Chieftains and some Chinese dancers, they

had a budget of £3,000. The Times described it as a "courageous endeavour" but the debts were huge. Gabriel says: "We wanted to allow different audiences to gain an insight into cultures other than their own. Music is a universal language, it draws people together and proves the stupidity of racism."

Despite the early problems, the two men had a clear, if naive, vision. Gabriel says: "We wanted to allow different audiences to gain an insight into cultures other than their own. Music is a universal language, it draws people together and proves the stupidity of racism."

Brooman admits that they were amateurs. "We were devouring all these new sounds in the way that a 13-year-old discovers pop music. It was our enthusiasm for the music that made us want to share it with as wide an audience as possible." Today the organisation is still small — just nine full-time staff working from Gabriel's Old Mill complex at Box in Wiltshire. But Brooman believes that Womad plays a vital role in the face of the commercial cynicism of the modern music industry. "We are providing an accessible and lively platform so that people can come without prejudice to see and listen and get a broader perspective on music in the world."

Brooman is particularly proud of the educational programme, financed partly by a grant from the Commission

for Racial Equality. Womad is registered as an educational charity and has published a series of books with Heinemann, Britain's largest educational publisher, as well as putting on a range of concerts and other activities in the classroom, highlighting music far removed from the Western classical tradition. "We have really made a mark on how music is taught in Britain. In 1982, Somerset schools sent our packs back in the belief that we were subversives luring them into some devil's cauldron. Ten years later we were appearing on curriculum lists as required reading."

Yet it is the live festival which remains at the heart of Womad. "At its best we transport people outside the usual house of culture to a temporary, surreal village," Brooman says. The global village which hits Reading today promises to be no exception. Some of the biggest names in world music are appearing, including Thomas Mapfumo from Zimbabwe and Jamaica's Mighty Diamonds.

Yet paradoxically the biggest impact this year is likely to come from performers closer to home. The festival has booked a range of British musicians who are spearheading a rediscovery of their own heritage, intermingling traditional folk idioms with world influences to produce something unlikely and often excitingly new and wild. Shooglenifty, for example, are an

Edinburgh band who add contemporary dance beats to Scottish jigs and reels, while from Wales come Hen Wlad Fy Mamau, integrating Celtic traditions with Asian rappers and Afro-dub DJs.

Most intriguing of all is Afro Celt Sound System, whose producer, Simon Emmerson, believes that the Celts migrated from the Middle East through Africa into Western

Europe. As a result, he says, "the kora and the Celtic harp, the African talking drum and the bodhran essentially seem to talk the same language". Gathering together Senegalese musicians from Baaba Maal's band, traditional Irish exponents of instruments such as the uilleann pipes and a Breton druid harpist, Emmerson has mixed the ancient with modern jungle, ambient and trip-hop beats to produce an unlikely but marvellous collaboration which sums up the spirit of Womad — eclectic, eccentric, anarchic but endlessly fascinating and a welcome antidote to the indulgences and excesses of the rest of the music business.

Womad takes place at Reading, Reading, from today until Sunday. Tickets for the weekend cost £50. Tel: 0118-939 0930.

JAZZ ALBUMS

Extra texture

MARIA SCHNEIDER
JAZZ ORCHESTRA

Coming About (Enja ENJ 9069 2)
AS the designation "Orchestra" rather than the more informal "Big Band" suggests, 35-year-old composer Maria Schneider is less interested in out-and-out Basie-ish swing than in impressionistic, multi-textured compositions.

Even the two non-Schneider pieces, John Coltrane's *Giant Steps* and Alex North's *Love Theme from Spartacus*, are transformed into quintessential Schneider arrangements: complex, subtle and many-layered without being unduly esoteric or forbidding.

While Schneider's two most important influences, former teacher Bob Brookmeyer and former employer Gil Evans, are still discernible in her work, *Coming About* is one of the most adventurous — and enjoyable — big-band recordings of recent years.

DAVE BLACKMORE

Fields of Fire

(FMR CD30-E0596)
LOCATED somewhere between the jazz/folk fusion of Llammas and the understated chamber-jazz of Perfect Houseplants, British reedman Dave Blackmore's quartet produce a softly propulsive, intimate sound slightly more robust than that suggested by titles such as *Still Green Way* or *Painting the Colour of the Wind*. Blackmore is equally at home in hard-bop and folk-dance bands, and he sets his group's tone with his pleasantly breathy alto, strident soprano or agile bass-clarinets.

Guitarist Phil Robson is a neat, inventive soloist; bassist Tim Wells and drummer Paul Clarvis provide discreet, supple rhythm throughout. A highly auspicious debut.

CHRIS PARKER

On the global village green

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Kingly treasures

THE King label tends to get overlooked in the history of rock. Perhaps it is because it was based in unfashionable Cincinnati or the fact that few of its huge roster of rhythm and blues, gospel and country stars (except James Brown) ever crossed over to become big sellers. Yet, as a new four-CD release, *The King R&B Box Set* (King KESCD-7002) proves, its influence was as great as that of Chess in Chicago or the New York-based Atlantic label.

Records such as Earl Bostic's *Flamingo*, Wynonie Harris's *Good Rockin' Tonight* and Lonnie Johnson's *Tomorrow Night* were all huge R&B hits while others such as *Fever* by Little Willie John, Sonny Thompson's *I'll Drown In My Own Tears* and *Dedicated To The One I Love* by the 5 Royales became big successes for Peggy Lee, Ray Charles and the Mamas and Papas respectively.

The label managed to survive into the 1960s with the help of James Brown, but its best years were behind it. With most of Brown's soul and funk material already available, this set concentrates on the label's R&B heritage. But missing are contributions from Johnny Otis or Jimmy Witherspoon.

King did not have it all its own way. Decca was able to compete with artists such as the ground-breaking Louis

BLUES ALBUMS

Jordan and Savoy Ballroom favourite Buddy Johnson, whose early hits are included on *Walk 'Em — The Decca Sessions* (Ace CDCD1023). The band was able to turn itself from swing outfit into fully-fledged R&B unit with the help of numbers such as *Fine Brown Frame, That's The Stuff You Gotta Watch* and *Buddy's sister Ella, Since I Fell For You*.

A wider view of that post-war period which saw the death of swing and the birth of R&B is provided by the double CD set *Roots of Rhythm & Blues 1939-1945* (Erémeaux & Associates FAC50). It starts with Jordan and Joe Liggins, before taking in Dinah Washington, Big Joe Turner, Hot Lips Page and the guitar-playing Sister Rosetta Tharpe.

There is a welcome return for an unusual bluesman in the shape of *Out Of Control* by Sonny Rhodes (King Snake KS-031). Unusual in that he is one of the few bluesmen to wear a turban or play a steel guitar on his lap — country style. The turban may add a touch of sartorial flair, but it is the lap steel which brings a new dimension to numbers like *The Pickin' Your Bones* or the brassy *Out Of Control*.

JOHN CLARKE

HMV

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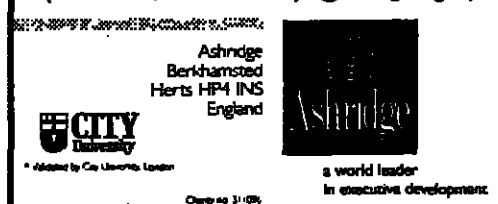
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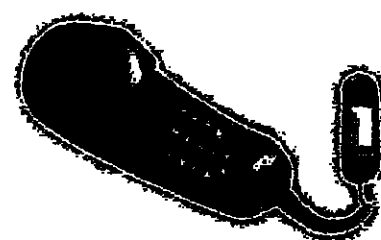
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EDUCATION

Duncan Baxter says the modular exam structure is undermining the traditional sixth-form ethos

Time to save our sixth-forms

A-level standards are likely to be back under the microscope next month if, as predicted, the pass rate continues to rise in line with the growing popularity of modular courses.

However, it is not just the shape of the A-level which has been changed by the modular approach, but the nature of the whole sixth-form experience.

Each September I tell every year group who are about to embark on their A-level courses that as well as developing the skills and knowledge they will need for higher education, they should view the coming two years as a time when their values and beliefs will start to take shape; beliefs and feelings that will stay with them for ever. These ideas will come from the general studies programme and through participation in the debate and cultural life which should pervade the sixth-form years.

Their ideas will be argued over and tested in the cut and thrust of life in the sixth-form common room, and by visits to the cinema and theatre, and to lectures.

I tell them that the sixth-formers set the tone for the whole school. If they are intellectually curious, self-

disciplined in their study and take up the opportunities open to them at school, the rest of the school will follow their lead.

And so to examinations. We all look back with fond memories to our A-level study and recall the joy of the public examination-free lower sixth year. It was wonderful to be able to read, discuss and think widely, knowing it was still possible to do well later, in our examinations.

No one now would condone the old-fashioned and loaded examinations, where cramming during the final weeks or months for O or A level ruled. Thus the advent of coursework, which spread the load, offered opportunities to practise and test other skills, and gave those who did not perform well in end-loaded examinations a chance to shine. It was more work, but we all felt it was worthwhile.

The old adage that "pupils like continuous assessment, but do not like being assessed continuously" comes to mind; the modular approach had arrived.

In addition to increasing choice and diversity through the mixing of modules both inter and intra subjects, this approach was thought to encourage steady work

throughout the course and to provide continuing motivation and stimulation. The first of these advantages is true, although, in practice, not much "mixing and matching" has been done; more, we find differences between subjects highlighted; in some subjects it is not possible to reach the equivalent of A-level standard after one year. The arts and humanities are difficult to divide into segments, because one's understanding of, say, *Hamlet* changes over two years.

This creates an unnatural divide between arts and sciences that does not enhance our ability to broaden A-level study by "mixing and matching".

What of motivation? Well, yes, some students like to have a list of modules to tick off, and it can aid the structure of their time for them. Equally, for many students it exacerbates rather than alleviates the concept of trial by examination.

Modular examinations can also wreck the corporate life of the sixth form. It seems that someone is always in a panic about examinations. We have, perhaps, lost the collective pace, the shared shape of the sixth-form course, where there is the mutual understanding and support of everyone engaged in



Lower sixth-former Giulia Cherchi in a biology class at the author's school, Kingston Grammar

trial examinations together, who then generate their own atmosphere when working towards the real thing.

The stop-go modular approach means that the non-modular subjects have to endure interruption to their teaching programmes as students inevitably concentrate on the subject to be examined, and co-curricular activities have the fate at

several times over two years that the second half of the final summer term has traditionally seen.

The modular approach is not the only factor in changing the habits of young minds. The soundbite culture has also affected more than just the way politicians think and speak; it has had a profound impact on the ability of students to focus for any length of time. It is a

common complaint that the concentration span of the young is shorter than it used to be. I always advise GCSE and A-level candidates to use "blocks" of time in their revision programmes so their minds and bodies are used to sitting still in one place for the equivalent time of an examination session — no getting up to make another cup of coffee or to put on another CD.

Surely, something must encourage learning as a commitment to rigorous but enjoyable study in detail, leading to a grand finale?

Increasingly, all educational institutions are being regarded as glorified supermarkets where items are chosen from the subjects likely to yield high grades. The sense of true academy will be lost if we are all engaged in an individual pursuit of custom-built education. What price the camaraderie of everyone aiming for shared goals within a common time frame in an atmosphere conducive to co-operation and the smooth running of a school, where a broad approach to learning should involve time spent in pursuing excellence in music, drama, sport, myriad physical and cultural endeavours?

The brave new world of academic disciplines filtered into bite-sized chunks, whose credit can be transferred over a long period of time, is one solution for higher education or adult or continuing education or third-age education, and for enabling the long-awaited opportunity to mix academic and vocational courses. But should we be thinking about allowing our school pupils to enjoy the fruits of community endeavour and the time to enjoy a balanced education, which will surely create the civilised leaders of the future?

Should we give more thought to what, precisely, a modular approach in school says about the nature of learning and the community of learners?

● The author is Headmaster of Kingston Grammar School, Kingston upon Thames

Who is fuelling fear of school?

There is no link to suicide, says George Turnbull

ChildLine told us recently that 79 per cent of 1,022 school students involved with examinations were worried about them. Nothing unusual in that. But it also said further research revealed suicidal tendencies in some.

If that didn't strike fear into at least some of the overwhelming majority of students who are not unduly concerned about their exams or schoolwork, then the Samaritans surely will — if, as last year, their spin doctors try to link suicides to exams when the A-level and GCSE results are published in August.

With an estimated two million students taking a mind-boggling 11 million separate national school examinations each year, one must question the marketing and promotional ethics of these estimable charities.

There is no evidence to link suicide with school examinations. The Samaritans certainly couldn't provide any last year when I asked them, and the ChildLine press information mentions only one attempted suicide. One too many, of course, but out of millions of students involved with examinations and schoolwork, it is hardly damning.

Indeed, in all but one of the



The vast majority of children cope well with exams

case studies given in the ChildLine press release, the problem was clearly one of parental pressure. Eliminate exams and schoolwork from the equation and the parents would still be there.

Bullying alone accounted for 76 per cent of the 17,004 calls to ChildLine about school worries in 1994-1995. But only 15 per cent of the young people counselled in that period had predominantly school problems (covering all aspects of school life except bullying). So why was the impression given that 79 per cent of young people were seriously worried about schoolwork and exams nationally, when the real figure — from ChildLine's own records — is at most fewer than 15 per cent of those who are actually counselled?

Evidence exists, however, to link high-profile suicide publicity with increased incidence of the act. We could, of course, ignore this fact. Ignorance may be bliss, but it doesn't solve problems. Education and a positive attitude can.

Twenty years ago the transition from primary to secondary school was traditionally fraught with fear, insecurity and uncertainty. Education, understanding and early visits to the new school helped to take the drama out of what was then a crisis.

But a new and artificially manufactured crisis is emerging, in which students are led to believe that examinations and schoolwork are inextricably linked with suicide and stress. Fear is being instilled through the dramatic portrayal of the severely negative, atypical experiences of the few.

If the results next month are better than last year's, the critics will again claim a drop in standards. The students can't win. And their loss is now to be compounded as "stress" and "anxiety" are marketed like any other commodity. It seems the "cause" is far more important to some than the effect on others.

● The author is spokesman for the Associated Examining Board and Southern Examining Group

Susan Elkin says that for children, going to the theatre should not be regarded as a luxury

Staging a little vital magic

A few years ago I attended an especially delightful performance of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* on a balmy summer evening in Regent's Park. In the front row with her parents and grandparents was an enchanted child, maybe eight years old. It was obviously a birthday treat because in the interval, the adults produced a cake and lit candles for her to blow out. The dreamy, transported look on that child's face spoke volumes for the powerful, imaginative magic of theatre, and she occupies a permanent place in my memory.

We tend to forget, in these

clinical days of national curriculum attainment targets, the strict routine of time-tabled days and the mind-deadening external "entertainment" of television, video and computer games, that children need time and space to explore the world of the imagination as well. As the old *Punch* cartoon had it: "Sometimes I sit and think, and then again I just sit". Modern children seem to get almost no time for either sitting or thinking.

On the one hand many parents regiment and organise their children's lives into closely supervised, structured activities — sport, music lessons, clubs — for every waking minute of every day. "Time is something to be filled every minute must be killed", as Benjamin observed satirically. At the other extreme are those parents whose children seem to bring themselves up with so little adult intervention that they are trapped within the unimaginative insularity of

their own neighbourhood culture. Of course I polarise to make a point, but it's worrying how few parents seem to strike a happy medium. It was therefore a joy to see so many children happily exercising their imagination in the relaxed and charming atmosphere of the Polka Theatre in Wimbledon the other day.

The Polka is the only children's theatre in London. To step inside its doors is to enter another world. It is full of primary colours, activity and vibrance. Big window displays in the foyer illustrate fairy stories and past productions.

As well as a garden for picnics, there is an attractive café for families. A soft-floored open-air playground in a pretty, leafy shaded courtyard lies through another door. Lots of children were excitedly tumbling about in the Wendy house and on the slide while they waited for 2pm and the time to go into the theatre and sit down.

We were there to see *Three Cheers for Mrs Butler*, a musical play based on the poems and characters of Allan Ahlberg, adapted by Vicky Ireland and with music by Colin Matthews. And what fun it was. Mrs Butler's primary school class goes through everything which primary school children know about and think about.

The interaction is beautifully presented, from the Welsh headmaster who reiterates: "In this school we work hard and play hard", to the teacher who seems more concerned about lost scissors than mis-

Dystin Johnson in *Three Cheers for Mrs Butler*

ing children, the hamster which keeps escaping from its cage, the child who can only read slowly and the one who misbehaves because he wants someone to notice him.

The five to 11-year-old children in the audience were spellbound — by the story, the music and the magic of the theatre.

Polka has two theatre spaces — the larger one with conventional tip-up seating, where these older children watched *Three Cheers for Mrs Butler*, and a cosier, less formal space with plays for three to five-year-olds. Polka relies on sponsorship for its several productions each year, many of which are also performed in schools and community centres.

Three Cheers for Mrs Butler is sponsored by Filk Flak. The same company has financed the "First-time Project" which will enable 1,200 children who, for financial reasons, have never been to a theatre performance, to come to Polka this summer.

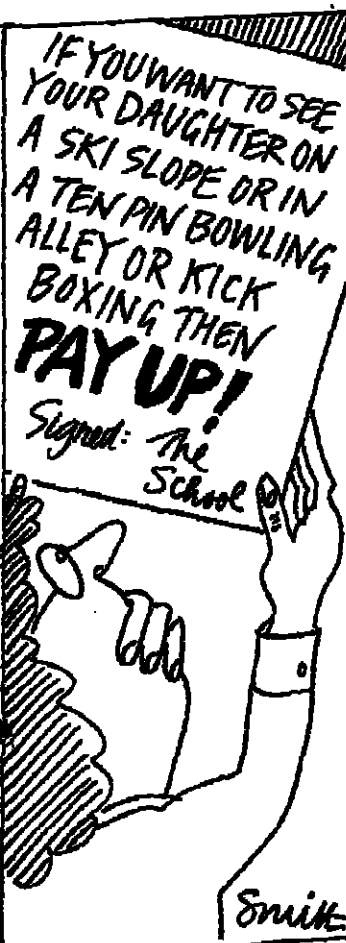
bolt-on extra — a luxury item — for the privileged few, on the periphery of a chillingly functional education system.

Children can learn so much in a theatre: about the world, about other people and, crucially, about themselves. The chance to embark on the sort of imaginative journey which theatre provides is a critical part of every child's development. Plays take you away from where you are. They challenge without threatening. Characters do and say things which unshackle thoughts.

That, presumably, is why the Puritans closed the theatres during the Commonwealth in the mid 17th century. Freedom of thought was not on the agenda. Theatre was also censored in the Soviet Union. Theatre is powerful. Surely we want our children to experience and grow through that power?

● Polka Theatre, 240 Broadway, Wimbledon, London SW19 1SB (0181-543 4888). *Three Cheers for Mrs Butler* runs until August 17.

Children need time to explore the world of fantasy



Pay up — or face humiliation

The 'contributions' schools demand are too much for many households, says a parent

My 13-year-old daughter was at home for three days this week. She should, of course, have been at school. She was not ill, just saving herself from being the object of discussion and humiliation. As her mother I supported her in her request to be allowed to stay at home.

This week, at her school in Kent, was "Arts Week" when for three days no formal study took place. The pupils could choose various activities in which to participate — one morning, one afternoon for two days and then a compulsory day trip for the last day.

These activities have to be paid for and it is here that the problems arise. We are all aware that income in many homes is only sufficient to meet necessities. As the mother of four children, all attending school, I face these problems on a regular basis.

The cost of "Arts Week" could be in the region of £20. This is a large amount of money to be found from a family budget where there may be one or two wage-earners, but could be impossible to find where there is no wage-earner at all. Schools will tell us that it is

impossible for them to fund every child for an activity or school trip. I appreciate that this is the case, but the letters that are sent home from schools do not help.

The schools commonly state that if there is no parental contribution then events and trips will have to be cancelled. "Contribution" is the key word. Most letters will state "...in order that this visit/event may take place a contribution of £XX is required". The letters also state that "no child will be excluded because of inability to pay. Please see your form tutor in confidence to discuss the situation." We now have parents being placed in a degrading situation. Why should THEY have to go, cap in hand, to discuss their personal situation and finances?

Our school went one better than asking for a parental contribution this year. A letter came home listing the activities available for my 13-year-old daughter. Kick-boxing, swimming, animation, modelling, Indian cultural

day, board games, field games, ten-pin bowling and dry-slope skiing. Beside each activity was the cost — not even a mention of "contribution".

It was a classic case of pay up or else. The "or else" was the problem for my daughter. She, as a vulnerable 13-year-old, actually had the courage to approach a member of staff to explain that we could not afford the amounts required. Humiliating enough, you might think, but worse was to come. She was then told that nothing could be done to help her. If you cannot pay, then you have to stay in school with pupils from another year and take part in normal lessons.

Demands for money are constantly being made by schools. The National Confederation of Parent Teacher Associations estimated earlier this week that parents are subsidising their children's education by £1.3 billion annually.

Three of my four children came home with letters in one week. The first came from my nine-year-old

daughter — a trip to Chatham Historic Dockyard. The dockyard is only ten miles away but the cost was £6.50. Two days later my 13-year-old came home with a proposed visit to Rochester Castle and Cathedral, at a cost of £4.50. The final straw came two days later from my eldest son, studying his GCSEs. He was also expected to go to the Dockyard. The same journey of ten miles but a cost of £8. A total expenditure of £19.

School visits are more frequent than ever. No parent wants to be seen as impeding their child's education, no matter what difficulties they may be facing. So they worry themselves senseless and scrimp and save in order to pay.

My 13-year-old daughter will return to school today with a letter stating that she was ill — a lie, we know. As her mother I am prepared to lie to save her and her family from any further embarrassment. Roll on the day when government ministers, LEAs, school governors and head teachers realise that parents are not a never-ending source of money.

● The author wishes to remain anonymous

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The College is committed to furthering the development of its region by way of research, development and consultancy activities and other partnership programmes such as the development of courses designed to meet the needs of employers or community groups.

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The College has entered into a partnership with the School of Nursing, Waterford Regional Hospital to offer a Diploma in Nursing to students undertaking the general nursing education and training programme leading to registration as a general nurse with An Bord Altranais. Developmental work is commencing on a post-registration nursing degree programme.

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- be registered as a nurse tutor with an Bord Altranais
- have appropriate academic and professional qualification
- have appropriate teaching experience

The appointment will be made at Lecturer I/Lecturer II level for an initial contract period of three years.

For further information and application forms, contact:
Neil O'Sullivan, Personnel Officer,
Tel: 00-353-51-302050, Fax: 00-353-51-378791,
email: nosullivan@wrtc-waterford.ie

Waterford Regional Technical College,
Cork Road, Waterford, Ireland

Completed application forms must arrive in the College before 5.00 p.m. on Friday, August 16th, 1996.

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Leicester's
as Smith
swing the

Left-arm
enjoy day

CRICKET

Leicestershire toil as Smith's efforts swing the balance

By ALAN LEE

CHELTONHAM (first day of four: Leicestershire won the toss): Leicestershire, with five second-innings wickets in hand, are 168 runs ahead of Gloucestershire.

THERE is seldom a dull day at the Cheltenham festival but this was taking tradition too far. The bowlers were so dominant and the batsmen so impotent that those expecting a day in the marquee on Saturday, let alone Monday, are likely to find there is nothing left to watch. By then, in all probability, Leicestershire will lead the county championship.

None of this scenario seemed likely as lunchtime approached with one wicket down and batting looking steadily straightforward. From 78 on one, Leicestershire stumbled to 159 all out, a total that required rapid re-evaluation as Gloucestershire were dismissed for a meagre 71 in

only 27 overs. Still, they will not regard their cause as hopeless, for they took five more wickets before the end of a remarkable day.

The College pitch was routinely referred to the Test and County Cricket Board, automatic procedure when up to 15 wickets fall on an opening day, but the surface was not the villain of the piece. Its bounce was true and less steep than of recent years. The ball did not move off the seam.

The truth is that these sides bowl with considerably more skill and sense than they bat. The stumps were hit only once and the eight leg-before dismissals were a result of swing, obtained notably by Mike Smith, or of batting misjudgments. There were plenty of these claiming responsibility for the four slip catches unerringly and acrobatically taken by Phil Simmons as Gloucestershire demonstrated graphically

why they have earned only one batting bonus point since May.

It has recently been Vince Wells's habit to gorge himself with double-centuries but a full-length inswinger from Smith cut him off 195 short of his optimum. He could hardly have expected to have another innings before the close, and to be out the same way, as he watched Ben Smith and Darren Maddy showing what could be achieved on this pitch.

The second wicket had put on 72 when Walsh recalled Smith just before lunch. The day was never the same again. His second ball found Maddy on the back foot, trapped in front, and when Simmons offered no stroke, three balls later, the finger of Barry Dudson, an umpire who coincidentally played for both these counties, was raised for a third time.

Walsh, who had arrived back from a selection meeting in the Caribbean only yesterday morning, dismissed Whitaker in the first over of the afternoon and, apart from some brief resistance for the eighth wicket, the rest was a procession. Mike Smith, who swings the ball far more than Alan Mullally, though at gentler pace, finished with six for 55; his namesake, Ben, batted through all but two overs of the innings for an unbeaten and almost untroubled 68. He must have wondered what was happening around him.

Leicestershire's title challenge is based on the hostility of Mullally and David Millns and they responded tenaciously, sharing four wickets for 26. Gloucestershire have nobody to retrench amid such chaos and their batting was an embarrassment.

So too, was the over-rate of both teams, which left 17 overs still to be bowled when Leicestershire began their second innings at 6.20pm. With Walsh and Smith fired up, it was more of the same, baffling story, the casualties including Simmons for a collector's piece, first-day "pair".



Bill Athey hooks Brendon Julian, Surrey's Australian pace bowler, during Sussex's first innings in their county championship match at Guildford yesterday

Warwickshire scent revival

By SIMON WILDE

EDGBASTON (second day of three): The Pakistanis, with two second-innings wickets in hand, are 134 runs ahead of Warwickshire.

WARWICKSHIRE's course has not run smooth this season, but that has only hardened the club's resolve to prove it is not, as some have suggested, a spent force. The players exude a fierce determination to not give up their championship title without a fight and another possibility to restore their reputation is now open to them — a resounding defeat of the Pakistan touring team today.

It would be a notable scalp. The Pakistanis are unbeaten on tour and have not, indeed, lost to a county in a first-class match since the opening fixture of their last visit, in 1992, when an unexpected second-innings collapse allowed Warwickshire to complete a five-wicket win.

A similarly surprising collapse occurred at Edgbaston yesterday, when the Pakistanis, 13 behind on the first innings, lost seven wickets in a frenetic final session, the two spinners, Smith and Giles, claiming three victims each.

For a team without their first-team regulars, the £7,500 that victory would bring Warwickshire would be a prize indeed, even if their opponents are grappling with injuries and illness. Waqar Younis rested his hamstring by staying off the field; Salim Malik was troubled by dizziness in the afternoon and returned to give another bewilderingly frenzied display with the bat; and Saeed Anwar was sent away for blood tests after a bout of vomiting.

If the Pakistanis are to escape defeat today, they may need Saeed, who came in at No 8, to lead a resurgent action with the tail. Apart from Ijaz Ahmed and Asif

Mujtaba, who put on 83, few others showed any application. Moiz Khan was largely blameless, brilliantly caught by the diving Ooster.

Their only other hope is Mushtaq Ahmed, who yesterday equalled his best figures in England of seven for 91. However, despite the success of the spinners, the pitch is slow and offering them little help. Mushtaq took two wickets in 19 overs from the pavilion end before switching ends and, finding greater bounce, polished off a pliant tail with five wickets in 28 balls.

This intervention was urgently required as Warwickshire's famous fighting spirit, which has been seen less often of late, was well to the fore during a rousing sixth-wicket stand of 142 between Penny and Brown, whose 76 was subdued with 12 fours and two sixes.

Yorkshire foiled as James and Keech take root

By JACK BAILEY

HARROGATE (first day of four: Hampshire won the toss): Yorkshire, with all first-innings wickets in hand, are 190 runs behind Hampshire.

ALMOST a full house at St George's saw the gods continue to smile on Kevan James. Nothing like the four wickets in four balls and a century in the same match against the Indians, but a brave innings of 71, spread over nearly four hours of dogged resistance, with more than a fair share of mistimed strokes and edges.

James held Hampshire together, as it were, with bits of knotted string. He survived only one real chance when he was dropped at second slip off Gough, when 25, but he came close any number of times. If James had not held on and if Matthew Keech had not batted confidently during a partnership of 110 for the fifth wicket, Yorkshire would be sitting pretty. They did not do badly to limit Hampshire to 266, but they could count themselves unlucky not to have taken five wickets before lunch, so frequently was the bat passed or the ball edged.

On a pitch full of early-morning bounce, John Stephenson unleashed some handsome strokes after losing Lacey and before playing on to Stump; Robin Smith faced only five balls, including two absolute beauties from White, one of which went clean through him, the other, a yorker, catching him plumb in front.

Had Keech not been run out in the last over before tea, beaten by Gough's long bat throw, Hampshire might have got clear away. Keech is currently occupying the floating place in the Hampshire line-up, previously occupied by White and Whitaker. In Hampshire's last championship match, he made the first century of his career and now his 63 came from only 75 balls with 12 fours, many and mostly intentional.

With his dismissal, though, the odds shifted Yorkshire's way. Hampshire's last five wickets yielded only 38 runs and Vaughan and Moxon commanded the scene as they batted out the evening.

Court case means an eventful match for Emburey

By PAT GIBSON

NORTHAMPTON (first day of four: Middlesex won the toss): Northamptonshire, with five first-innings wickets in hand, are 65 runs behind Middlesex.

IT IS a shame that John Emburey was unable to bat through until the close because he might otherwise have turned up in the witness box at the High Court this morning carrying his bat and wearing his gloves, pads and helmet.

Emburey was always going to be a central figure in this match between the county he served for 23 years and the one he joined as player-coach this season, but no one could have envisaged the circumstances which led to him bowling only 41 overs and batting at No 3.

The bizarre chain of events began 10 minutes before the start when Emburey, already subpoenaed as a witness in Ian Botham's libel action against Imran Khan, received a phone call summoning him to the High Court. Four hours later he was able to take the field, having been told that he would not be needed until today.

One over after that he was bowling, with special permission from Lord's because of the "wholly exceptional" situation, picking up Middlesex's last two wickets and suggesting that they would have been in even deeper trouble if he had been there all day.

As it was, they were all out for 157, with their batting, weakened by the absence of the injured Rampersingh, undetermined by some high-class left-arm seam bowling from Taylor, who took five for 36.

Within an over of Middlesex being out, Emburey was in action again as Northamptonshire, their own batting unsettled by the need for him to get his innings over and by the loss of Warren — who had broken his right thumb keeping wicket — ran into the same kind of problems against a former seam attack.

They finished on 92 for five which meant 15 wickets had fallen in the day, and questions were bound to be asked about the pitch.

Left-arm specialists enjoy day of havoc

By GEOFFREY WHEELER

ALAN MULLALLY has done little wrong since he got into the England team, but his challenges for the left-arm fast bowling position issued reminders yesterday that they remain very much in contention.

While Paul Taylor was causing havoc at Northampton and Mike Smith enjoying himself at Leicestershire's expense, Mark Ilett, of Essex, with four for 31, was helping Ronnie Irani to bowl out Nottinghamshire for 97 at Chelmsford. Irani's figures of five for 27 were his best for the county, but it was Ilett who removed Tim Robinson, the only batsman to offer serious resistance.

Then Simon Brown, the country's leading wicket-taker, struck three telling blows in nine testing overs for Durham, who reduced Worcestershire to 39 for four at New

Road where the championship tailenders had been bowled out for 240. Maintaining the left-arm theme was Brendon Julian, the Australian, who took four wickets in 12 balls for Surrey at Guildford where Sussex, with one wicket left, need two runs to avoid following on.

The bat ruled at Old Trafford, where Jason Gallian scored an unbeaten 178 of Lancashire's 334 for two against Derbyshire, who made a good start when Dominic Cork sent back Mike Atherton scoreless.

South Africa gained the opening first-class victory of their tour by beat Glamorgan by an innings and 44 runs inside two days. Kallis and Klusener each took four wickets in the Glamorgan first innings and, when they followed on, Paul Adams ripped through the middle order.

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

Telford's Challenge Series

Warwickshire v Pakistanis

EDGBASTON (second day of three): The Pakistanis, with two second-innings wickets in hand, are 134 runs ahead of Warwickshire.

PAKISTANIS: First Innings 297 (Saeed Anwar 131, Inzamam-ul-Haq 51).

Second Innings 147 (Saeed Anwar 52, Inzamam-ul-Haq 34, Waqar Younis 26, Waqar Younis 26).

Warwickshire: First Innings 147 (Saeed Anwar 52, Inzamam-ul-Haq 34, Waqar Younis 26, Waqar Younis 26).

Warwickshire: Second Innings 147 (Saeed Anwar 52, Inzamam-ul-Haq 34, Waqar Younis 26, Waqar Younis 26).

Warwickshire: Third Innings 147 (Saeed Anwar 52, Inzamam-ul-Haq 34, Waqar Younis 26, Waqar Younis 26).

Warwickshire: Fourth Innings 147 (Saeed Anwar 52, Inzamam-ul-Haq 34, Waqar Younis 26, Waqar Younis 26).

Warwickshire: Fifth Innings 147 (Saeed Anwar 52, Inzamam-ul-Haq 34, Waqar Younis 26, Waqar Younis 26).

Warwickshire: Sixth Innings 147 (Saeed Anwar 52, Inzamam-ul-Haq 34, Waqar Younis 26, Waqar Younis 26).

Warwickshire: Seventh Innings 147 (Saeed Anwar 52, Inzamam-ul-Haq 34, Waqar Younis 26, Waqar Younis 26).

Warwickshire: Eighth Innings 147 (Saeed Anwar 52, Inzamam-ul-Haq 34, Waqar Younis 26, Waqar Younis 26).

Warwickshire: Ninth Innings 147 (Saeed Anwar 52, Inzamam-ul-Haq 34, Waqar Younis 26, Waqar Younis 26).

Warwickshire: Tenth Innings 147 (Saeed Anwar 52, Inzamam-ul-Haq 34, Waqar Younis 26, Waqar Younis 26).

Warwickshire: Eleventh Innings 147 (Saeed Anwar 52, Inzamam-ul-Haq 34, Waqar Younis 26, Waqar Younis 26).

Warwickshire: Twelfth Innings 147 (Saeed Anwar 52, Inzamam-ul-Haq 34, Waqar Younis 26, Waqar Younis 26).

Warwickshire: Thirteenth Innings 147 (Saeed Anwar 52, Inzamam-ul-Haq 34, Waqar Younis 26, Waqar Younis 26).

Warwickshire: Fourteenth Innings 147 (Saeed Anwar 52, Inzamam-ul-Haq 34, Waqar Younis 26, Waqar Younis 26).

Warwickshire: Fifteenth Innings 147 (Saeed Anwar 52, Inzamam-ul-Haq 34, Waqar Younis 26, Waqar Younis 26).

Warwickshire: Sixteenth Innings 147 (Saeed Anwar 52, Inzamam-ul-Haq 34, Waqar Younis 26, Waqar Younis 26).

Warwickshire: Seventeenth Innings 147 (Saeed Anwar 52, Inzamam-ul-Haq 34, Waqar Younis 26, Waqar Younis 26).

Warwickshire: Eighteenth Innings 147 (Saeed Anwar 52, Inzamam-ul-Haq 34, Waqar Younis 26, Waqar Younis 26).

Warwickshire: Nineteenth Innings 147 (Saeed Anwar 52, Inzamam-ul-Haq 34, Waqar Younis 26, Waqar Younis 26).

Warwickshire: Twentieth Innings 147 (Saeed Anwar 52, Inzamam-ul-Haq 34, Waqar Younis 26, Waqar Younis 26).

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE: First Innings

R R Montgomerie c Carr b Fraser 4
A Fordham c Brown b Fry 11
J E Embury c b b Hoddinott 11
R Bailey c Brown b Johnson 6
A L Penberthy not out 19
D J Cresswell c Gillingham b Fry 10
M C Curran not out 18
Extras (b 3, w 1, nb 4) 10
Total (28.3 overs) 158

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-7, 2-78, 3-78, 4-85, 5-86, 6-114, 7-120, 8-136, 9-156.

BOWLING: Walsh 16-3-42; Smith 18-3-59; Giles 9-5-19; D. Maddy 11-3-29; Ball 4-2-12.

Second Innings 13 (D. Maddy c Simmons b Walsh 14, B. Smith run out 7, A. L. Penberthy not out 12, P. V. Simmons not out 0, Extras (b 3, w 1, nb 4) 9).

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-2-28, 2-3-100, 4-106, 5-117, 7-121, 8-147.

BOWLING: Allee 9-0-32; Murtion 7-2-17; D. Maddy 12-3-37; Smith 20-5-56.

Warwickshire: First Innings 147 (Saeed Anwar 52, Inzamam-ul-Haq 34, Waqar Younis 26, Waqar Younis 26).

Warwickshire: Second Innings 147 (Saeed Anwar 52, Inzamam-ul-Haq 34, Waqar Younis 26, Waqar Younis 26).

Warwickshire: Third Innings 147 (Saeed Anwar 52, Inzamam-ul-Haq 34, Waqar Younis 26, Waqar Younis 26).

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Warwickshire: Fifth Innings 147 (Saeed Anwar 52, Inzamam-ul-Haq 34, Waqar Younis 26, Waqar Younis 26).

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Warwickshire: Seventh Innings 147 (Saeed Anwar 52, Inzamam-ul-Haq 34, Waqar Younis 26, Waqar Younis 26).

Warwickshire: Eighth Innings 147 (Saeed Anwar 52, Inzamam-ul-Haq 34, Waqar Younis 26, Waqar Younis 26).

Warwickshire: Ninth Innings 147 (Saeed Anwar 52, Inzamam-ul-Haq 34, Waqar Younis 26, Waqar Younis 26).

Warwickshire: Tenth Innings 147 (Saeed Anwar 52, Inzamam-ul-Haq 34, Waqar Younis 26, Waqar Younis 26).

Warwickshire: Eleventh Innings 147 (Saeed Anwar 52, Inzamam-ul-Haq 34, Waqar Younis 26, Waqar Younis 26).

Warwickshire: Twelfth Innings 147 (Saeed Anwar 52, Inzamam-ul-Haq 34, Waqar Younis 26, Waqar Younis 26).

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Warwickshire: Fourteenth Innings 147 (Saeed Anwar 52, Inzamam-ul-Haq 34, Waqar Younis 26, Waqar Younis 26).

Warwickshire: Fifteenth Innings 147 (Saeed Anwar 52, Inzamam-ul-Haq 34, Waqar Younis 26, Waqar Younis 26).

Warwickshire: Sixteenth Innings 147 (Saeed Anwar 52, Inzamam-ul-Haq 34, Waqar Younis 26, Waqar Younis 26).

Warwickshire: Seventeenth Innings 147 (Saeed Anwar 52, Inzamam-ul-Haq 34, Waqar Younis 26, Waqar Younis 26).

Warwickshire: Eighteenth Innings 147 (Saeed Anwar 52, Inzamam-ul-Haq 34, Waqar Younis 26, Waqar Younis 26).

Warwickshire: Nineteenth Innings 147 (Saeed Anwar 52, Inzamam-ul-Haq 34, Waqar Younis 26, Waqar Younis 26).

Worcestershire v Durham

WOLVERHAMPTON (first day of four: Worcestershire won the toss): Worcestershire, with six first-innings wickets in hand, are 201 runs behind Durham.

Worcestershire: First Innings 201 (Saeed Anwar 52, Inzamam-ul-Haq 34, Waqar Younis 26, Waqar Younis 26).

Worcestershire: Second Innings 201 (Saeed Anwar 52, Inzamam-ul-Haq 34, Waqar Younis 26, Waqar Younis 26).

Worcestershire: Third Innings 201 (Saeed Anwar 52, Inzamam-ul-Haq 34, Waqar Younis 26, Waqar Younis 26).

Worcestershire: Fourth Innings 201 (Saeed Anwar 52, Inzamam-ul-Haq 34, Waqar Younis 26, Waqar Younis 26).

Worcestershire: Fifth Innings 201 (Saeed Anwar 52, Inzamam-ul-Haq 34, Waqar Younis 26, Waqar Younis 26).

Worcestershire: Sixth Innings 201 (Saeed Anwar 52, Inzamam-ul-Haq 34, Waqar Younis 26, Waqar Younis 26).

Worcestershire: Seventh Innings 201 (Saeed Anwar 52, Inzamam-ul-Haq 34, Waqar Younis 26, Waqar Younis 26).

Worcestershire: Eighth Innings 201 (Saeed Anwar 52, Inzamam-ul-Haq 34, Waqar Younis 26, Waqar Younis 26).

Worcestershire: Ninth Innings 201 (Saeed Anwar 52, Inzamam-ul-Haq 34, Waqar Younis 26, Waqar Younis 26).

Worcestershire: Tenth Innings 201 (Saeed Anwar 52, Inzamam-ul-Haq 34, Waqar Younis 26, Waqar Younis 26).

Worcestershire: Eleventh Innings 201 (Saeed Anwar 52, Inzamam-ul-Haq 34, Waqar Younis 26, Waqar Younis 26).

Worcestershire: Twelfth Innings 201 (Saeed Anwar 52, Inzamam-ul-Haq 34, Waqar Younis 26, Waqar Younis 26).

Worcestershire: Thirteenth Innings 201 (Saeed Anwar 52, Inzamam-ul-Haq 34, Waqar Younis 26, Waqar Younis 26).

Worcestershire: Fourteenth Innings 201 (Saeed Anwar 52, Inzamam-ul-Haq 34, Waqar Younis 26, Waqar Younis 26).

Worcestershire: Fifteenth Innings 201 (Saeed Anwar 52, Inzamam-ul-Haq 34, Waqar Younis 26, Waqar Younis 26).

Worcestershire: Sixteenth Innings 201 (Saeed Anwar 52, Inzamam-ul-Haq 34, Waqar Younis 26, Waqar Younis 26).

Worcestershire: Seventeenth Innings 201 (Saeed Anwar 52, Inzamam-ul-Haq 34, Waqar Younis 26, Waqar Younis 26).

Worcestershire: Eighteenth Innings 201 (Saeed Anwar 52, Inzamam-ul-Haq 34, Waqar Younis 26, Waqar Younis 26).

Worcestershire: Nineteenth Innings 201 (Saeed Anwar 52, Inzamam-ul-Haq 34, Waqar Younis 26, Waqar Younis 26).

Worcestershire: Twentieth Innings 201 (Saeed Anwar 52, Inzamam-ul-Haq 34, Waqar Younis 26, Waqar Younis 26).

Worcestershire: Twenty-first Innings 201 (Saeed Anwar 52, Inzamam-ul-Haq 34, Waqar Younis 26, Waqar Younis 26).

Worcestershire: Twenty-second Innings 201 (Saeed Anwar 52, Inzamam-ul-Haq 34, Waqar Younis 26, Waqar Younis 26).

Worcestershire: Twenty-third Innings 201 (Saeed Anwar 52, Inzamam-ul-Haq 34, Waqar Younis 26, Waqar Younis 26).

Worcestershire: Twenty-fourth Innings 201 (Saeed Anwar 52, Inzamam-ul-Haq 34, Waqar Younis 26, Waqar Younis 26).

Surrey v Sussex

GUILDFORD (second day of four: Surrey, with one first-innings wicket in hand, are 151 runs behind Surrey).

Surrey: First Innings 151 (Saeed Anwar 52, Inzamam-ul-Haq 34, Waqar Younis 26, Waqar Younis 26).

Surrey: Second Innings 151 (Saeed Anwar 52, Inzamam-ul-Haq 34, Waqar Younis 26, Waqar Younis 26).

Surrey: Third Innings 151 (Saeed Anwar 52, Inzamam-ul-Haq 34, Waqar Younis 26, Waqar Younis 26).

Surrey: Fourth Innings 151 (Saeed Anwar 52, Inzamam-ul-Haq 34, Waqar Younis 26, Waqar Younis 26).

Surrey: Fifth Innings 151 (Saeed Anwar 52, Inzamam-ul-Haq 34, Waqar Younis 26, Waqar Younis 26).

Surrey: Sixth Innings 151 (Saeed Anwar 52, Inzamam-ul-Haq 34, Waqar Younis 26, Waqar Younis 26).

Surrey: Seventh Innings 151 (Saeed Anwar 52, Inzamam-ul-Haq 34, Waqar Younis 26, Waqar Younis 26).

Surrey: Eighth Innings 151 (Saeed Anwar 52, Inzamam-ul-Haq 34, Waqar Younis 26, Waqar Younis 26).

Surrey: Ninth Innings 151 (Saeed Anwar 52, Inzamam-ul-Haq 34, Waqar Younis 26, Waqar Younis 26).

Surrey: Tenth Innings 151 (Saeed Anwar 52, Inzamam-ul-Haq 34, Waqar Younis 26, Waqar Younis 26).

Surrey: Eleventh Innings 151 (Saeed Anwar 52, Inzamam-ul-Haq 34, Waqar Younis 26, Waqar Younis 26).

Surrey: Twelfth Innings 151 (Saeed Anwar 52, Inzamam-ul-Haq 34, Waqar Younis 26, Waqar Younis 26).

Surrey: Thirteenth Innings 151 (Saeed Anwar 52, Inzamam-ul-Haq 34, Waqar Younis 26, Waqar Younis 26).

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CYCLING

Tour follows Voskamp into France

By Peter Bryan

THE top ten riders in contention for overall honours in the Tour de France staged a go-slow yesterday. It was to be expected. Indeed, it was strongly in the tradition of the great race.

The previous day had been hard fought to establish what is probably the final pecking order. Now, recrossing the Pyrenees from Spain after Wednesday's cruel north-to-south journey, which confirmed Bjarne Riis in the race leader's yellow jersey, the lesser lights were thrown the crumb of a possible stage victory — always provided, of course, that they did not offer an eventual serious challenge to the overall standings. Thus, Bart Voskamp's name goes into the record books as the winner of the not-too-demanding, eighteenth stage from Pamplona to Hendaye.

Behind him, Riis sat comfortably alongside his likely rivals with whom he, seemingly, had come to a gentleman's agreement that their pace would be tempered by the ability of a 14-strong leading group that formed before the final mountain climb of Otxondo (107 kilometres from the finish) as the race left Spain. Christian Salvo, of Italy, was first over the summit, which was followed by a by-and-large steady descent to the finish.

At that point the main pack was content to pedal along without aggression. They had done their

mental arithmetic and knew that none of the significant positions was endangered. Up ahead, the pace-setters, spurred on by the thought of a stage success, steadily drew clear and what had once been a modest advantage of four minutes began to increase, eventually reaching double figures.

Christian Henn, of Riis's Telekom team, made the move that decided the result and split the leaders. He attacked and went clear, but was soon joined by Voskamp. Five kilometres from the line, the pair, working well together to maintain their lead, were 1500 metres ahead of the pursuers and, during the remaining kilometres, increased that advantage. On the final run-in, Voskamp proved the stronger sprinter, winning by 2sec.

The remnants of the leading group came in well spread out, but never in danger of being caught by the relaxed peloton about 15 minutes behind. They appeared content to conserve their energies not only for today's run to Bordeaux, but also with Saturday's individual time-trial in mind, the result of which should make Sunday's stage a pleasant promenade into Paris — for most of the survivors, if not Miguel Indurain, normally the time-trialist supreme. A poor performance on the road from Bordeaux to Saint Emilion will be enough to persuade the ailing Spaniard to miss the Olympic Games and go on holiday instead.



SAIL POWER: *Sorcery*, the American-owned maxi, goes to windward in yesterday's second race at Ford Cork Week, which she won in the first light airs of the regatta. The 83-footer had earlier retired from the first race in Class O after one of her 26-strong crew was flipped overboard by a running spinaker sheet (Edward Gorman writes).

Paddy O'Brien, the skipper, managed to turn the yacht round, but was unable to pick up the crewman because of the large number of boats racing close-by. The sailor was eventually recovered, uninjured, by an inflatable rescue boat, obliging *Sorcery* to retire. The race was won by Jocelyn Waller's Bashford-Howison 41, *Silk 2*, the overall leader in the class, from Nigel Bramwell's *BH 41*, *Hawk*, in second.

Meanwhile, the battle for the Sigma 33

National championship intensified as the two leading boats tackled the uncertainties of light airs sailing, but managed to hang on to their overall supremacy. The 73-strong fleet were set Olympic-style courses and went out with Simon Pender, on *St Joan*, just ahead of their fellow Clyde-based boat, *Phoenix*, owned by John and Hilary Connolly.

In the first race, the Connollys took their second win, while Pender finished in 36th after crossing the start line early and having to go back. In the second race, however, the Sonata-class national champion fought back to finish second behind Gavin Watson's *Rupert*, while the Connollys finished fourth.

With a discard now coming into force, Pender remains in the lead with 14.50pts from the Connollys in second on 17.50pts.

RUGBY UNION

New legal threat emerges for RFU

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

FRUSTRATED debenture-holders at Twickenham are contemplating legal action if the Rugby Football Union's (RFU) meeting with other home unions' leaders next Tuesday does not produce a resolution to England's threatened expulsion from the five nations' championship.

About 10,000 debenture-holders have recently received forms from the RFU to encourage early applications for the forthcoming season, but the possible loss of five nations' matches — the consequence of the controversial broadcasting agreement between the union and BSkyB, the satellite television company (which is part-owned by News International, owners of *The Times*) — has angered some.

"There is no way I bought a product just to watch the grass grow," Dennis Sobey, who manages his own training company and is a vice-president at Old Bechemians, said yesterday. Sobey, 49, paid nearly £5,000 for his ten-year debenture in 1990, which entitles him to a guaranteed seat in the middle tier of the East Stand at significant occasions at Twickenham.

"I believe that what the RFU has done is illegal, without giving us an option," Sobey said. "If you have paid for a service and it's withdrawn, you are entitled to complain, to an ombudsman or to the courts." He has consulted other debenture-holders, occupants of the East Stand, whose feelings mirror his own.

They are playing with our money at a time when they are short of pennies themselves and it's totally unacceptable," Sobey added, referring to the £34 million debt

that the RFU has on the West Stand. "Depending upon what happens on Tuesday, I will take legal advice to see where we all stand."

Richard Field, the RFU marketing director, while sympathetic over debenture-holders' concerns, stressed that so far only a handful of protests had been received. "Many are waiting to see what the outcome of the negotiations is and we feel there is cause for optimism, that there will be a five nations' championship," he said.

Field pointed out that it is not the RFU that has withdrawn from the championship and that there is no warranty on the debentures concerning the number or frequency of matches. Next season's schedule offers 19 opportunities at Twickenham for holders, ten of them big representative occasions, compared with 13 and seven only two seasons ago.

South Africa may go into tomorrow's tri-nations' international in Christchurch as holders of the World Cup, but, in the eyes of the world, their hosts have already overtaken them in precedence. New Zealand's dismissal of Australia a fortnight ago was such that they indicated a new plateau in the game had been reached, of which they are the only occupants. It will be the first meeting between the two countries since the extra-time final of the World Cup last June, which South Africa won 15-12.

Paul Sampson, having completed his formal academic education in Yorkshire, will continue his rugby education with Wasps. Sampson, 19, a wing, trained with England last January as a schoolboy at Woodhouse Grove.

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TODAY'S FIXTURES

CRICKET	WORCESTER: Worcestershire v Durham	Second division
Tetley Challenge Series	HARROGATE: Yorkshire v Hampshire	Barnet v York
11.0, final day of four, 104 overs minimum	GUILDFORD: Surrey v Sussex	Huslet Hawks v Swinton Lions
EDGBASTON: Warwickshire v Lancashire	BAIN HOGG TROPHY (one day): Partick Glasgow v Gloucestershire	
11.0, second day of four, 104 overs minimum	Kent v Essex, Aston Unity CC, Warwickshire v Minor Counties	
CHILTERNHAM: Essex v Nottinghamshire	RUGBY LEAGUE	
CHILTERNHAM: Gloucestershire v Lancashire	Stoke Super League	
OLD TRAFFORD: Lancashire v Derbyshire	Chesham v St Helens	
NORTHAMPTON: Northamptonshire v Middlesex	1st Division	
	Rochdale v Salford Reds	

FOR THE RECORD

BASEBALL	CRICKET
NATIONAL LEAGUE: New York 3 Philadelphia 2, Colorado 4 San Francisco 3, Florida 1 Houston 2, St Louis 6 Cincinnati 4, San Diego 5 Los Angeles 4. Postponed: Chicago v Pittsburgh	MINOR COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP: Final day of two: Devonshire Shropshire 306-5 (Ash Den 188 K Shaw 88) and 195 (M R Davies 57, S D Myers 4-23, Boucher 2-25)
AMERICAN LEAGUE: Minnesota 4 Chicago 3, Milwaukee 3 Detroit 2 (10 innings), Baltimore 11 Toronto 10, Kansas City 3 Cleveland 2, Boston 12 New York 11, Texas 7 California 3 Oakland 7 Seattle 6	

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UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Computing Laboratory
Professorship of Numerical Analysis

The electors intend to proceed to an election to the Professorship of Numerical Analysis, which will fall vacant with effect from 1 October 1997, upon the retirement of Professor K.W. Morton.

A non-stipendiary professorial fellowship at Balliol College is attached to the professorship.

Applications (ten copies, or one only from overseas candidates), naming three referees, should be received not later than 16 September 1996 by the Registrar, University Offices, Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JD, from whom further particulars may be obtained.

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Sunday 29th September

For further information about these features or to advertise please contact Simon Mallinson on:
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YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Bath

Going: 6m

2.00 (1m 14.40) 1. FLIGHT MASTER (S. Sanders, 7-4) 2. 1st 1.4.1. 3. 1.4.1. 4. 1.4.1. 5. 1.4.1. 6. 1.4.1. 7. 1.4.1. 8. 1.4.1. 9. 1.4.1. 10. 1.4.1. 11. 1.4.1. 12. 1.4.1. 13. 1.4.1. 14. 1.4.1. 15. 1.4.1. 16. 1.4.1. 17. 1.4.1. 18. 1.4.1. 19. 1.4.1. 20. 1.4.1. 21. 1.4.1. 22. 1.4.1. 23. 1.4.1. 24. 1.4.1. 25. 1.4.1. 26. 1.4.1. 27. 1.4.1. 28. 1.4.1. 29. 1.4.1. 30. 1.4.1. 31. 1.4.1. 32. 1.4.1. 33. 1.4.1. 34. 1.4.1. 35. 1.4.1. 36. 1.4.1. 37. 1.4.1. 38. 1.4.1. 39. 1.4.1. 40. 1.4.1. 41. 1.4.1. 42. 1.4.1. 43. 1.4.1. 44. 1.4.1. 45. 1.4.1. 46. 1.4.1. 47. 1.4.1. 48. 1.4.1. 49. 1.4.1. 50. 1.4.1. 51. 1.4.1. 52. 1.4.1. 53. 1.4.1. 54. 1.4.1. 55. 1.4.1. 56. 1.4.1. 57. 1.4.1. 58. 1.4.1. 59. 1.4.1. 60. 1.4.1. 61. 1.4.1. 62. 1.4.1. 63. 1.4.1. 64. 1.4.1. 65. 1.4.1. 66. 1.4.1. 67. 1.4.1. 68. 1.4.1. 69. 1.4.1. 70. 1.4.1. 71. 1.4.1. 72. 1.4.1. 73. 1.4.1. 74. 1.4.1. 75. 1.4.1. 76. 1.4.1. 77. 1.4.1. 78. 1.4.1. 79. 1.4.1. 80. 1.4.1. 81. 1.4.1. 82. 1.4.1. 83. 1.4.1. 84. 1.4.1. 85. 1.4.1. 86. 1.4.1. 87. 1.4.1. 88. 1.4.1. 89. 1.4.1. 90. 1.4.1. 91. 1.4.1. 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1.4.1. 592. 1.4.1. 593. 1.4.1. 594. 1.4.1. 595. 1.4.1. 596. 1.4.1. 597. 1.4.1. 598. 1.4.1. 599. 1.4.1. 600. 1.4.1. 601. 1.4.1. 602. 1.4.1. 603. 1.4.1. 604. 1.4.1. 605. 1.4.1. 606. 1.4.1. 607. 1.4.1. 608. 1.4.1. 609. 1.4.1. 610. 1.4.1. 611. 1.4.1. 612. 1.4.1. 613. 1.4.1. 614. 1.4.1. 615. 1.4.1. 616. 1.4.1. 617. 1.4.1. 618. 1.4.1. 619. 1.4.1. 620. 1.4.1. 621. 1.4.1. 622. 1.4.1. 623. 1.4.1. 624. 1.4.1. 625. 1.4.1. 626. 1.4.1. 627. 1.4.1. 628. 1.4.1. 629. 1.4.1. 630. 1.4.1. 631. 1.4.1. 632. 1.4.1. 633. 1.4.1. 634. 1.4.1. 635. 1.4.1. 636. 1.4.1. 637. 1.4.1. 638. 1.4.1. 639. 1.4.1. 640. 1.4.1. 641. 1.4.1. 642. 1.4.1. 643. 1.4.1. 644. 1.4.1. 645. 1.4.1. 646. 1.4.1. 647. 1.4.1. 648. 1.4.1. 649. 1.4.1. 650. 1.4.1. 651. 1.4.1. 652. 1.4.1. 653. 1.4.1. 654. 1.4.1. 655. 1.4.1. 656. 1.4.1. 657. 1.4.1. 658. 1.4.1. 659. 1.4.1. 660. 1.4.1. 661. 1.4.1. 662. 1.4.1. 663. 1.4.1. 664. 1.4.1. 665. 1.4.1. 666. 1.4.1. 667. 1.4.1. 668. 1.4.1. 669. 1.4.1. 670. 1.4.1. 671. 1.4.1. 672. 1.4.1. 673. 1.4.1. 674. 1.4.1. 675. 1.4.1. 676. 1.4.1. 677. 1.4.1. 678. 1.4.1. 679. 1.4.1. 680. 1.4.1. 681. 1.4.1. 682. 1.4.1. 683. 1.4.1. 684. 1.4.1. 685. 1.4.1. 686. 1.4.1. 687. 1.4.1. 688. 1.4.1. 689. 1.4.1. 690. 1.4.1. 691. 1.4.1. 692. 1.4.1. 693. 1.4.1. 694. 1.4.1. 695. 1.4.1. 696. 1.4.1. 697. 1.4.1. 698. 1.4.1. 699. 1.4.1. 700. 1.4.1. 701. 1.4.1. 702. 1.4.1. 703. 1.4.1. 704. 1.4.1. 705. 1.4.1. 706. 1.4.1. 707. 1.4.1. 708. 1.4.1. 709. 1.4.1. 710. 1.4.1. 711. 1.4.1. 712. 1.4.1. 713. 1.4.1. 714. 1.4.1. 715. 1.4.1. 716. 1.4.1. 717. 1.4.1. 718. 1.4.1. 719. 1.4.1. 720. 1.4.1. 721. 1.4.1. 722. 1.4.1. 723. 1.4.1. 724. 1.4.1. 725. 1.4.1. 726. 1.4.1. 727. 1.4.1. 728. 1.4.1. 729. 1.4.1. 730. 1.4.1. 731. 1.4.1. 732. 1.4.1. 733. 1.4.1. 734. 1.4.1. 735. 1.4.1. 736. 1.4.1. 737. 1.4.1. 738. 1.4.1. 739. 1.4.1. 740. 1.4.1. 741. 1.4.1. 742. 1.4.1. 743. 1.4.1. 744. 1.4.1. 745. 1.4.1. 746. 1.4.1. 747. 1.4.1. 748. 1.4.1. 749. 1.4.1. 750. 1.4.1. 751. 1.4.1. 752. 1.4.1. 753. 1.4.1. 754. 1.4.1. 755. 1.4.1. 756. 1.4.1. 757. 1.4.1. 758. 1.4.1. 759. 1.4.1. 760. 1.4.1. 761. 1.4.1. 762. 1.4.1. 763. 1.4.1. 764. 1.4.1. 765. 1.4.1. 766. 1.4.1. 767. 1.4.1. 768. 1.4.1. 769. 1.4.1. 770. 1.4.1. 771. 1.4.1. 772. 1.4.1. 773. 1.4.1. 774. 1.4.1. 775. 1.4.1. 776. 1.4.1. 777. 1.4.1. 778. 1.4.1. 779. 1.4.1. 780. 1.4.1. 781. 1.4.1. 782. 1.4.1. 783. 1.4.1. 784. 1.4.1. 785. 1.4.1. 786. 1.4.1. 787. 1.4.1. 788. 1.4.1. 789. 1.4.1. 790. 1.4.1. 791. 1.4.1. 792. 1.4.1. 793. 1.4.1. 794. 1.4.1. 795. 1.4.1. 796. 1.4.1. 797. 1.4.1. 798. 1.4.1. 799. 1.4.1. 800. 1.4.1. 801. 1.4.1. 802. 1.4.1. 803. 1.4.1. 804. 1.4.1. 805. 1.4.1. 806. 1.4.1. 807. 1.4.1. 808. 1.4.1. 809. 1.4.1. 810. 1.4.1. 811. 1.4.1. 812. 1.4.1. 813. 1.4.1. 814. 1.4.1. 815. 1.4.1. 816. 1.4.1. 817. 1.4.1. 818. 1.4.1. 819. 1.4.1. 820. 1.4.1. 821. 1.4.1. 822. 1.4.1. 823. 1.4.1. 824. 1.4.1. 825. 1.4.1. 826. 1.4.1. 827. 1.4.1. 828. 1.4.1. 829. 1.4.1. 830. 1.4.1. 831. 1.4.1. 832. 1.4.1. 833. 1.4.1. 834. 1.4.1. 835. 1.4.1. 836. 1.4.1. 837. 1.4.1. 838. 1.4.1. 839. 1.4.1. 840. 1.4.1. 841. 1.4.1. 842. 1.4.1. 843. 1.4.1. 844. 1.4.1. 845. 1.4.1. 846. 1.4.1. 847. 1.4.1. 848. 1.4.1. 849. 1.4.1. 850. 1.4.1. 851. 1.4.1. 852. 1.4.1. 853. 1.4.1. 854. 1.4.1. 855. 1.4.1. 856. 1.4.1. 857. 1.4.1. 858. 1.4.1. 859. 1.4.1. 860. 1.4.1. 861. 1.4.1. 862. 1.4.1. 863. 1.4.1. 864. 1.4.1. 865. 1.4.1. 866. 1.4.1. 867. 1.4.1. 868. 1.4.1. 869. 1.4.1. 870. 1.4.1. 871. 1.4.1. 872. 1.4.1. 873. 1.4.1. 874. 1.4.1. 875. 1.4.1. 876. 1.4.1. 877. 1.4.1. 878. 1.4.1. 879. 1.4.1. 880. 1.4.1. 881. 1.4.1. 882. 1.4.1. 883. 1.4.1. 884. 1.4.1. 885. 1.4.1. 886. 1.4.1. 887. 1.4.1. 888. 1.4.1. 889. 1.4.1. 890. 1.4.1. 891. 1.4.1. 892. 1.4.1. 893. 1.4.1. 894. 1.4.1. 895. 1.4.1. 896. 1.4.1. 897. 1.4.1. 898. 1.4.1. 899. 1.4.1. 900. 1.4.1. 901. 1.4.1. 902. 1.4.1. 903. 1.4.1. 904. 1.4.1. 905. 1.4.1. 906. 1.4.1. 907. 1.4.1. 908. 1.4.1. 909. 1.4.1. 910. 1.4.1. 911. 1.4.1. 912. 1.4.1. 913. 1.4.1. 914. 1.4.1. 915. 1.4.1. 916. 1.4.1. 917. 1.4.1. 918. 1.4.1. 919. 1.4.1. 920. 1.4.1. 921. 1.4.1. 922. 1.4.1. 923. 1.4.1. 924. 1.4.1. 925. 1.4.1. 926. 1.4.1. 927. 1.4.1. 928. 1.4.1. 929. 1.4.1. 930. 1.4.1. 931. 1.4.1. 932. 1.4.1. 933. 1.4.1. 934. 1.4.1. 935. 1.4.1. 936. 1.4.1. 937. 1.4.1. 938. 1.4.1. 939. 1.4.1. 940. 1.4.1. 941. 1.4.1. 942. 1.4.1. 943. 1.4.1. 944. 1.4.1. 945. 1.4.1. 946. 1.4.1. 947. 1.4.1. 948. 1.4.1. 949. 1.4.1. 950. 1.4.1. 951. 1.4.1. 952. 1.4.1. 953. 1.4.1. 954. 1.4.1. 955. 1.4.1. 956. 1.4.1. 957. 1.4.1. 958. 1.4.1. 959. 1.4.1. 960. 1.4.1. 961. 1.4.1. 962. 1.4.1. 963. 1.4.1. 964. 1.4.1. 965. 1.4.1. 966. 1.4.1. 967. 1.4.1. 968. 1.4.1. 969. 1.4.1. 970. 1.4.1. 971. 1.4.1. 972. 1.4.1. 973. 1.4.1. 974. 1.4.1. 975. 1.4.1. 976. 1.4.1. 977. 1.4.1. 978. 1.4.1. 979. 1.4.1. 980. 1.4.1. 981. 1.4.1. 982. 1.4.1. 983. 1.4.1. 984. 1.4.1. 985. 1.4.1. 986. 1.4.1. 987. 1.4.1. 988. 1.4.1. 989. 1.4.1. 990. 1.4.1. 991. 1.4.1. 992. 1.4.1. 993. 1.4.1. 994. 1.4.1. 995. 1.4.1. 996. 1.4.1. 997. 1.4.1. 998. 1.4.1. 999. 1.4.1. 1000. 1.4.1. 1001. 1.4.1. 1002. 1.4.1. 1003. 1.4.1. 1004. 1.4.1. 1005. 1.4.1. 1006. 1.4.1. 1007. 1.4.1. 1008. 1.4.1. 1009. 1.4.1. 1010. 1.4.1. 1011. 1.4.1. 1012. 1.4.1. 1013. 1.4.1. 1014. 1.4.1. 1015. 1.4.1. 1016. 1.4.1. 1017. 1.4.1. 1018. 1.4.1. 1019. 1.4.1. 1020. 1.4.1. 1021. 1.4.1. 1022. 1.4.1. 1023. 1.4.1. 1024. 1.4.1. 1025. 1.4.1. 1026. 1.4.1. 1027. 1.4.1. 1028. 1.4.1.

RACING: HOME SECRETARY AGREES TO FORMATION OF ADVISORY GROUP FOR INDUSTRY DISCUSSIONS

BHB denied opportunity to run Tote

By RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

RACING has been thwarted in its cherished ambition to take over the running of the Tote but gained an unexpected "sweetener" involving regular meetings with the Home Secretary to discuss the sport's problems and future.

As foreshadowed in *The Times* in May, Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, yesterday announced the pool betting organisation will not be transferred to the British Horseracing Board (BHB) because of a series of complex issues - including the threat of the Tote being effectively dismantled by losing its exclusive pool betting licence.

Lord Wyatt of Wexford, chairman of the Tote since 1976, will retire next April and his £100,000 a year job will be advertised in the next two months. Racing and book-making interests will be consulted over the appointment of a successor by Howard.

However, the surprise element in a Commons written answer involved Howard accepting a proposal from Lord Wakeham, the BHB chairman, to select a small horse racing advisory group, "who will meet with me from time to time to discuss the general state of, and key issues affecting, the horse racing industry."

The group will complement, not replace, the established arrangements for regular communication between government and the industry.

Lord Wakeham said yesterday that he expected to announce the "four or five members" of the new group in September. There seemed to be a strong case for including a bookmaking representative.

Home Office officials have been reviewing options for the future of the Tote since February 1995, but Howard said: "Those options which involve changing the existing statutory framework might put at risk the contribution which the Tote makes to racing. I have concluded that, pending further work on these issues, I should end the uncertainty surrounding the future of the Tote by retaining the statutory framework for the present."

He continued: "In reaching this conclusion, I have had regard to the wish of the BHB to take on responsibility for the Tote. However, while it is the representative body of racing, transfer of a public

asset to a private body such as the BHB raises complex issues which are unlikely to be settled in the short term.

"In particular, it would be contentious to vest the Tote in a private body without competitive tender: it might not be possible to keep the Tote's exclusive licence and the fixed odds business might have to be removed from the Tote."

Mr Timothy Kirkhope, the Home Office minister responsible for gambling, said: "We didn't want to end up in a situation where the Tote was dismantled or affected in an adverse way because we appreciate it contributes in a large way to racing."

Howard said the new Tote chairman would be required to support racing and conduct a wide-ranging review of the Tote's operations. Although the government would wish to return to the Tote's status in the future, Kirkhope indicated that could be several years down the road.

Lord Wakeham added: "While there will inevitably be some disappointment that the BHB's ambition to take responsibility for the Tote will not be realised for the time being, racing will, I am sure, recognise the wisdom of not risking the damage to the Tote and its contribution to racing which, on the basis of analysis to date, could arise from any change in the Tote's status."



Wakeham will announce membership of new advisory group in September

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: CLIFTON FOX (7.55 Newmarket)
Next best: Young Duke (5.30 Newbury)

Thunderer selected last five winners at Bath yesterday including Midstate (12-1)

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Racing makes appeal in value stakes

By RICHARD EVANS

A DAY at the races offers better value for money than watching a decent game of football or cricket - and is quarter the price of going to a show in London or seeing the British Grand Prix.

In fact, the cost of going racing is well below midway in a league table of average prices for sport and leisure activities, produced by the British Horseracing Board (BHB) and Racecourse Association (RCA).

The conclusions may not surprise most racegoers - a significant majority believe racing is good value - but they will come as a shock to non-racegoers who perceive racing to be "expensive".

Just why non-racegoers think the sport is costly is not clear. It may be due to the impression gained by watching prestigious meetings such as Royal Ascot or Goodwood on television, but until now little attempt has been made to correct the misconception.

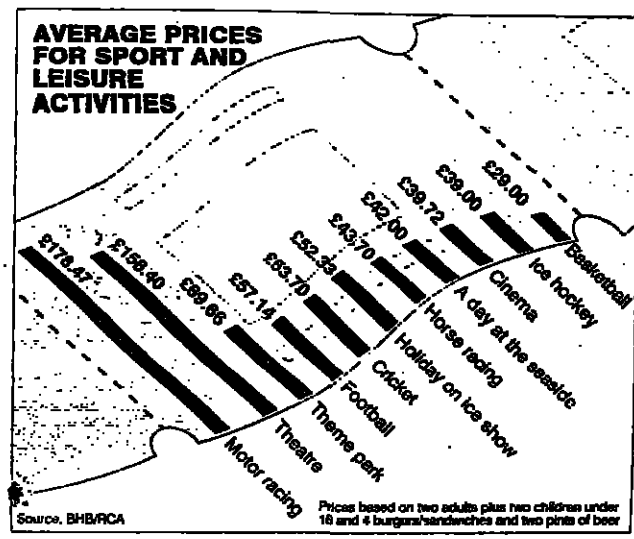
"The findings in our survey show that racing competes favourably at all levels with other leisure activities, and that is a message we have got to get across," Morag Gray of the RCA said yesterday.

"Until now we have not taken all the opportunities to tell people about racing's value for money. For example, in most cases children can go free. We have come as a shock to non-racegoers who perceive racing to be "expensive".

Britain's 59 racecourses will be supplied with the data and encouraged to contact local newspapers and radio to show how racing offers a value for money day out compared to other leisure pursuits in the area.

The BHB-RCA study included a direct comparison between the cost of going racing and attending a football match in cities which offer both sports. At Newcastle, Nottingham and Exeter average admission fees for racing are well below those charged for football.

The cost of annual membership at racecourses varies from £188 charged by Newmarket and Ayr to £27 at Fakenham. The average cost per meeting for annual members is just £3.64.



PONTEFRAC

6.45 Hurling Times. 7.10 Admirals Secret. 7.40 Captain Carat (nap). 8.10 Glowing Jade. 8.40 Tart. 9.10 Bowlers Boy.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM
DRAW: 5F-1M. LOW NUMBERS BEST

6.45 JACK BERRY APPEAL MAIDEN AUCTION

STAKES (2-Y-O: £3,534.6) (12 runners)
1. MANKATO 20 (J. Berry) 5-10
2. PRESENTATION 14 (J. Berry) 5-10
3. HURGLING TIMES 14 (J. Berry) 5-10
4. JED KINNEY 14 (J. Berry) 5-10
5. SOUTHERLY WIND 18 (J. Berry) 5-10
6. WAY OF THE WIND 18 (J. Berry) 5-10
7. MANKATO 20 (J. Berry) 5-10
8. MANKATO 20 (J. Berry) 5-10
9. MANKATO 20 (J. Berry) 5-10
10. MANKATO 20 (J. Berry) 5-10
11. MANKATO 20 (J. Berry) 5-10
12. MANKATO 20 (J. Berry) 5-10

7.10 YORKSHIRE-TYNE TEES TELEVISION

HANDICAP (€3,210: 1m 41yds) (8)
1. 0435 GREEN LAND 22 (J. Berry) 4-10
2. 0404 ADMIRALS SECRET 20 (J. Berry) 4-10
3. 0400 SOUTHERLY WIND 18 (J. Berry) 4-10
4. 0434 FABULOUS MOTO 11 (J. Berry) 4-10
5. 0405 MACK TRAIL 44 (J. Berry) 4-10
6. 0405 CHAMPION 25 (J. Berry) 4-10
7. 1.00 BOURBON 25 (J. Berry) 4-10
8. 3010 ARABIAN HEIGHTS 16 (J. Berry) 4-10
9. 4.00 Fabulous Motos 6-4 Mankato 6-1 Admirals Secret 6-1 Champion 10-1 Green Land 10-1 others

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: Mrs J. Berry, 32 winners from 163 runners, 19.6%
4-45 BERRY 22 (J. Berry) 4-10
Wick: 5 from 12, 41.7%
Jockey: 5 from 12, 41.7%
JOCKEYS: S. Berry, 5 winners from 11 rides, 45.5%
130: 21 from 130, 16.2%
120: 15 from 120, 12.5%
110: 10 from 110, 9.1%
100: 5 from 100, 5.0%
90: 2 from 90, 2.2%
80: 1 from 80, 1.3%
70: 0 from 70, 0.0%
60: 0 from 60, 0.0%
50: 0 from 50, 0.0%
40: 0 from 40, 0.0%
30: 0 from 30, 0.0%
20: 0 from 20, 0.0%
10: 0 from 10, 0.0%
5: 0 from 5, 0.0%
4: 0 from 4, 0.0%
3: 0 from 3, 0.0%
2: 0 from 2, 0.0%
1: 0 from 1, 0.0%

SOUTHWELL

THUNDERER
2.20 Saviour. 2.50 Full O'Praise. 3.20 Lawful Love. 3.50 War Whoopee. 4.20 Trade Wind. 4.50 Island Vision.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM
DRAW: 5F-1M. LOW NUMBERS BEST

2.20 FISHERTON NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE

(€4,425: 2m 41yds) (7 runners)
1. 40-0 SASSY 34 (J. Berry) 5-10
2. 4-45 BERRY 22 (J. Berry) 4-10
3. 4-45 BERRY 22 (J. Berry) 4-10
4. 4-45 BERRY 22 (J. Berry) 4-10
5. 4-45 BERRY 22 (J. Berry) 4-10
6. 4-45 BERRY 22 (J. Berry) 4-10
7. 4-45 BERRY 22 (J. Berry) 4-10

2.50 LEEDS HANDICAP CHASE

(€4,498: 2m) (4)
1. 23-6 FULL O'PRAISE 41 (J. Berry) 4-10
2. 5-13 NOBLELY 16 (J. Berry) 4-10
3. 30-4 MAGNETS GREEN 25 (J. Berry) 4-10
4. 30-4 MAGNETS GREEN 25 (J. Berry) 4-10

4.20 BMT THE PARK HOSPITAL SELLING HURDLE

(€2,012: 2m) (10)
1. 13-0 NOBLELY 16 (J. Berry) 4-10
2. 13-0 NOBLELY 16 (J. Berry) 4-10
3. 13-0 NOBLELY 16 (J. Berry) 4-10
4. 13-0 NOBLELY 16 (J. Berry) 4-10
5. 13-0 NOBLELY 16 (J. Berry) 4-10
6. 13-0 NOBLELY 16 (J. Berry) 4-10
7. 13-0 NOBLELY 16 (J. Berry) 4-10
8. 13-0 NOBLELY 16 (J. Berry) 4-10
9. 13-0 NOBLELY 16 (J. Berry) 4-10
10. 13-0 NOBLELY 16 (J. Berry) 4-10

4.50 EDINGLEY HANDICAP HURDLE

(€2,589: 2m) (10)
1. 13-0 NOBLELY 16 (J. Berry) 4-10
2. 13-0 NOBLELY 16 (J. Berry) 4-10
3. 13-0 NOBLELY 16 (J. Berry) 4-10
4. 13-0 NOBLELY 16 (J. Berry) 4-10
5. 13-0 NOBLELY 16 (J. Berry) 4-10
6. 13-0 NOBLELY 16 (J. Berry) 4-10
7. 13-0 NOBLELY 16 (J. Berry) 4-10
8. 13-0 NOBLELY 16 (J. Berry) 4-10
9. 13-0 NOBLELY 16 (J. Berry) 4-10
10. 13-0 NOBLELY 16 (J. Berry) 4-10

7.40 ANTONIA DEUTERS HANDICAP

(€5,254: 5f) (8)
1. 0440 ROAD DOME 19 (J. Berry) 4-10
2. 0440 ROAD DOME 19 (J. Berry) 4-10
3. 0440 ROAD DOME 19 (J. Berry) 4-10
4. 0440 ROAD DOME 19 (J. Berry) 4-10
5. 0440 ROAD DOME 19 (J. Berry) 4-10
6. 0440 ROAD DOME 19 (J. Berry) 4-10
7. 0440 ROAD DOME 19 (J. Berry) 4-10
8. 0440 ROAD DOME 19 (J. Berry) 4-10

8.10 INJURED JOCKEYS FUND HOLIDAY

HANDICAP (€3,485: 1m 41yds) (14)
1. 410 MILL FORD 27 (J. Berry) 4-10
2. 410 MILL FORD 27 (J. Berry) 4-10
3. 410 MILL FORD 27 (J. Berry) 4-10
4. 410 MILL FORD 27 (J. Berry) 4-10
5. 410 MILL FORD 27 (J. Berry) 4-10
6. 410 MILL FORD 27 (J. Berry) 4-10
7. 410 MILL FORD 27 (J. Berry) 4-10
8. 410 MILL FORD 27 (J. Berry) 4-10
9. 410 MILL FORD 27 (J. Berry) 4-10
10. 410 MILL FORD 27 (J. Berry) 4-10

8.40 ST JOHN AMBULANCE MAIDEN STAKES

(3-Y-O: €3,599: 1m 21yds) (4)
1. 0335 BERRY 22 (J. Berry) 4-10
2. 0335 BERRY 22 (J. Berry) 4-10
3. 0335 BERRY 22 (J. Berry) 4-10
4. 0335 BERRY 22 (J. Berry) 4-10

9.10 RED SHIRT NIGHT LIMITED STAKES

(€2,738: 5f) (5)
1. 0128 BERRY 22 (J. Berry) 4-10
2. 0128 BERRY 22 (J. Berry) 4-10
3. 0128 BERRY 22 (J. Berry) 4-10
4. 0128 BERRY 22 (J. Berry) 4-10
5. 0128 BERRY 22 (J. Berry) 4-10

3.20 IGESUND TIMBER HANDICAP HURDLE

(€2,586: 2m 41yds) (7)
1. 11-4 ARCTIC LIFE 8 (J. Berry) 4-10
2. 11-4 ARCTIC LIFE 8 (J. Berry) 4-10
3. 11-4 ARCTIC LIFE 8 (J. Berry) 4-10
4. 11-4 ARCTIC LIFE 8 (J. Berry) 4-10
5. 11-4 ARCTIC LIFE 8 (J. Berry) 4-10
6. 11-4 ARCTIC LIFE 8 (J. Berry) 4-10
7. 11-4 ARCTIC LIFE 8 (J. Berry) 4-10

3.50 QUALVIS PACKAGING MAIDEN HURDLE

(€2,346: 2m) (7)
1. 11-4 ARCTIC LIFE 8 (J. Berry) 4-10
2. 11-4 ARCTIC LIFE 8 (J. Berry) 4-10
3. 11-4 ARCTIC LIFE 8 (J. Berry) 4-10
4. 11-4 ARCTIC LIFE 8 (J. Berry) 4-10
5. 11-4 ARCTIC LIFE 8 (J. Berry) 4-10
6. 11-4 ARCTIC LIFE 8 (J. Berry) 4-10
7. 11-4 ARCTIC LIFE 8 (J. Berry) 4-10

4.20 BMT THE PARK HOSPITAL SELLING HURDLE

(€2,012: 2m) (10)
1. 13-0 NOBLELY 16 (J. Berry) 4-10
2. 13-0 NOBLELY 16 (J. Berry) 4-10
3. 13-0 NOBLELY 16 (J. Berry) 4-10
4. 13-0 NOBLELY 16 (J. Berry) 4-10
5. 13-0 NOBLELY 16 (J. Berry) 4-10
6. 13-0 NOBLELY 16 (J. Berry) 4-10
7. 13-0 NOBLELY 16 (J. Berry) 4-10
8. 13-0 NOBLELY 16 (J. Berry) 4-10
9. 13-0 NOBLELY 16 (J. Berry) 4-10
10. 13-0 NOBLELY 16 (J. Berry) 4-10

4.50 EDINGLEY HANDICAP HURDLE

(€2,589: 2m) (10)
1. 13-0 NOBLELY 16 (J. Berry) 4-10
2. 13-0 NOBLELY 16 (J. Berry) 4-10
3. 13-0 NOBLELY 16 (J. Berry) 4-10
4. 13-0 NOBLELY 16 (J. Berry) 4-10
5. 13-0 NOBLELY 16 (J. Berry) 4-10
6. 13-0 NOBLELY 16 (J. Berry) 4-10
7. 13-0 NOBLELY 16 (J. Berry) 4-10
8. 13-0 NOBLELY 16 (J. Berry) 4-10
9. 13-0 NOBLELY 16 (J. Berry) 4-10
10. 13-0 NOBLELY 16 (J. Berry) 4-10

MUSSELBURGH

THUNDERER
2.10 Fony. 2.40 Victoria's Secret. 3.10 Red Spectacle. 3.40 Bowcliffe Grange. 4.10 Poly Dancer. 4.40 Rainbows Phasop.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM
DRAW: 5F. LOW NUMBERS BEST

2.10 BRUNTON SHAW CLAIMING STAKES

(2-Y-O: €2,605: 5f) (10 runners)
1. 2211 FONY 17 (J. Berry) 4-10
2. 2211 FONY 17 (J. Berry) 4-10
3. 2211 FONY 17 (J. Berry) 4-10
4. 2211 FONY 17 (J. Berry) 4-10
5. 2211 FONY 17 (J. Berry) 4-10
6. 2211 FONY 17 (J. Berry) 4-10
7. 2211 FONY 17 (J. Berry) 4-10
8. 2211 FONY 17 (J. Berry) 4-10
9. 2211 FONY 17 (J. Berry) 4-10
10. 2211 FONY 17 (J. Berry) 4-10

2.40 BERRY BIRCH & NOBLE LIMITED STAKES

(€2,619: 1m 31yds) (8)
1. 2211 FONY 17 (J. Berry) 4-10
2. 2211 FONY 17 (J. Berry) 4-10
3. 2211 FONY 17 (J. Berry) 4-10
4. 2211 FONY 17 (J. Berry) 4-10
5. 2211 FONY 17 (J. Berry) 4-10
6. 2211 FONY 17 (J. Berry) 4-10
7. 2211 FONY 17 (J. Berry) 4-10
8. 2211 FONY 17 (J. Berry) 4-10

3.10 WATFORD MINING HANDICAP

(€2,931: 1m 71yds) (10)
1. 050- MASTER HYDE 132 (J. Berry) 4-10
2. 050- MASTER HYDE 132 (J. Berry) 4-10
3. 050- MASTER HYDE 132 (J. Berry) 4-10
4. 050- MASTER HYDE 132 (J. Berry) 4-10
5. 050- MASTER HYDE 132 (J. Berry) 4-10
6. 050- MASTER HYDE 132 (J. Berry) 4-10
7. 050- MASTER HYDE 132 (J. Berry) 4-10
8. 050- MASTER HYDE 132 (J. Berry) 4-10
9. 050- MASTER HYDE 132 (J. Berry) 4-10
10. 050- MASTER HYDE 132 (J. Berry) 4-10

3.40 MONKTONHALL COLLIERY HANDICAP

(€2,918: 5f) (8)
1. 4514 CHEMIST 16 (J. Berry) 4-10
2. 4514 CHEMIST 16 (J. Berry) 4-10
3. 4514 CHEMIST 16 (J. Berry) 4-10
4. 4514 CHEMIST 16 (J. Berry) 4-10
5. 4514 CHEMIST 16 (J. Berry) 4-10
6. 4514 CHEMIST 16 (J. Berry) 4-10
7. 4514 CHEMIST 16 (J. Berry) 4-10
8. 4514 CHEMIST 16 (J. Berry) 4-10

4.10 MONKTONHALL COLLIERY SELLING STAKES

(2-Y-O: €2,284: 7f 11yds) (5)
1. 0502 APOLLON 17 (J. Berry) 4-10
2. 0502 APOLLON 17 (J. Berry) 4-10
3. 0502 APOLLON 17 (J. Berry) 4-10
4. 0502 APOLLON 17 (J. Berry) 4-10
5. 0502 APOLLON 17 (J. Berry) 4-10

4.40 CALEDONIAN INDUSTRIAL HANDICAP

(€2,857: 1m 10yds) (13)
1. 1015 BROUGHTON 16 (J. Berry) 4-10
2. 1015 BROUGHTON 16 (J. Berry) 4-10
3. 1015 BROUGHTON 16 (J. Berry) 4-10
4. 1015 BROUGHTON 16 (J. Berry) 4-10
5. 1015 BROUGHTON 16 (J. Berry) 4-10
6. 1015 BROUGHTON 16 (J. Berry) 4-10
7. 1015 BROUGHTON 16 (J. Berry) 4-10
8. 1015 BROUGHTON 16 (J. Berry) 4-10
9. 1015 BROUGHTON 16 (J. Berry) 4-10
10. 1015 BROUGHTON 16 (J. Berry) 4-10

NEWMARKET

THUNDERER
6.30 Sharp Shuffle. 6.55 Cim Bom Bom. 7.25 Navigators. 7.55 Melotte. 8.25 Ovation. 8.55 Kalabo.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM
DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE
SIS

6.30 SPORTING INDEX SPREAD BETTING

CLAIMING STAKES (3-Y-O: €4,013: 1m) (9 runners)
1. 2211 FONY 17 (J. Berry) 4-10
2. 2211 FONY 17 (J. Berry) 4-10
3. 2211 FONY 17 (J. Berry) 4-10
4. 2211 FONY 17 (J. Berry) 4-10
5. 2211 FONY 17 (J. Berry) 4-10
6. 2211 FONY 17 (J. Berry) 4-10
7. 2211 FONY 17 (J. Berry) 4-10
8. 2211 FONY 17 (J. Berry) 4-10
9. 2211 FONY 17 (J. Berry) 4-10

6.55 HORSE RACING ABROAD HANDICAP

(€4,230: 6f) (7)
1. 2211 FONY 17 (J. Berry) 4-10
2. 2211 FONY 17 (J. Berry) 4-10
3. 2211 FONY 17 (J. Berry) 4-10
4. 2211 FONY 17 (J. Berry) 4-10
5. 2211 FONY 17 (J. Berry) 4-10
6. 2211 FONY 17 (J. Berry) 4-10
7. 2211 FONY 17 (J. Berry) 4-10

7.25 LOUIS ROEDERER CHAMPAGNE MAIDEN STAKES

(€4,230: 6f) (5)
1. 2211 FONY 17 (J. Berry) 4-10
2. 2211 FONY 17 (J. Berry) 4-10
3. 2211 FONY 17 (J. Berry) 4-10
4. 2211 FONY 17 (J. Berry) 4-10
5. 2211 FONY 17 (J. Berry) 4-10

7.55 SPORTING INDEX HANDICAP

(€4,400: 1m 21yds) (12)
1. 2211 FONY 17 (J. Berry) 4-10
2. 2211 FONY 17 (J. Berry) 4-10
3. 2211 FONY 17 (J. Berry) 4-10
4. 2211 FONY 17 (J. Berry) 4-10
5. 2211 FONY 17 (J. Berry) 4-10
6. 2211 FONY 17 (J. Berry) 4-10
7. 2211 FONY 17 (J. Berry) 4-10
8. 2211 FONY 17 (J. Berry) 4-10
9. 2211 FONY 17 (J. Berry) 4-10
10. 2211 FONY 17 (J. Berry) 4-10

8.25 MARK GORSUCH MAIDEN STAKES

(2-Y-O: €4,425: 7f) (11)
1. 2211 FONY 17 (J. Berry) 4-10
2. 2211 FONY 17 (J. Berry) 4-10
3. 2211 FONY 17 (J. Berry) 4-10
4. 2211 FONY 17 (J. Berry) 4-10
5. 2211 FONY 17 (J. Berry) 4-10
6. 2211 FONY 17 (J. Berry) 4-10
7. 2211 FONY 17 (J. Berry) 4-10
8. 2211 FONY 17 (J. Berry) 4-10
9. 2211 FONY 17 (J. Berry) 4-10
10. 2211 FONY 17 (J. Berry) 4-10

8.55 SPORTING INDEX MATCH BET CONDITIONS STAKES

(€5,002: 1m 41yds) (5)
1. 2211 FONY 17 (J. Berry) 4-10
2. 2211 FONY 17 (J. Berry) 4-10
3. 2211 FONY 17 (J. Berry) 4-10
4. 2211 FONY 17 (J. Berry) 4-10
5. 2211 FONY 17 (J. Berry) 4-10

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: M. Berry, 5 winners from 274 runners, 18.2%
4-45 BERRY 22 (J. Berry) 4-10
Wick: 5 from 12, 41.7%
Jockey: 5 from 12, 41.7%
JOCKEYS: S. Berry, 5 winners from 11 rides, 45.5%
130: 21 from 130, 16.2%
120: 15 from 120, 12.5%
110: 10 from 110, 9.1%
100: 5 from 100, 5.0%
90: 2 from 90, 2.2%
80: 1 from 80, 1.3%
70: 0 from 70, 0.0%
60: 0 from 60, 0.0%
50: 0 from 50, 0.0%
40: 0 from 40, 0.0%
30: 0 from 30, 0.0%
20: 0 from 20, 0.0%
10: 0 from 10, 0.0%
5: 0 from 5, 0.0%
4: 0 from 4, 0.0%
3: 0 from 3, 0.0%
2: 0 from 2, 0.0%
1: 0 from 1, 0.0%

NEWBURY

THUNDERER
2.30 Jawhen. 4.00 Call Me. 4.30 Shamrock. 5.00 Invest Wisely. 5.30 Young Duke.

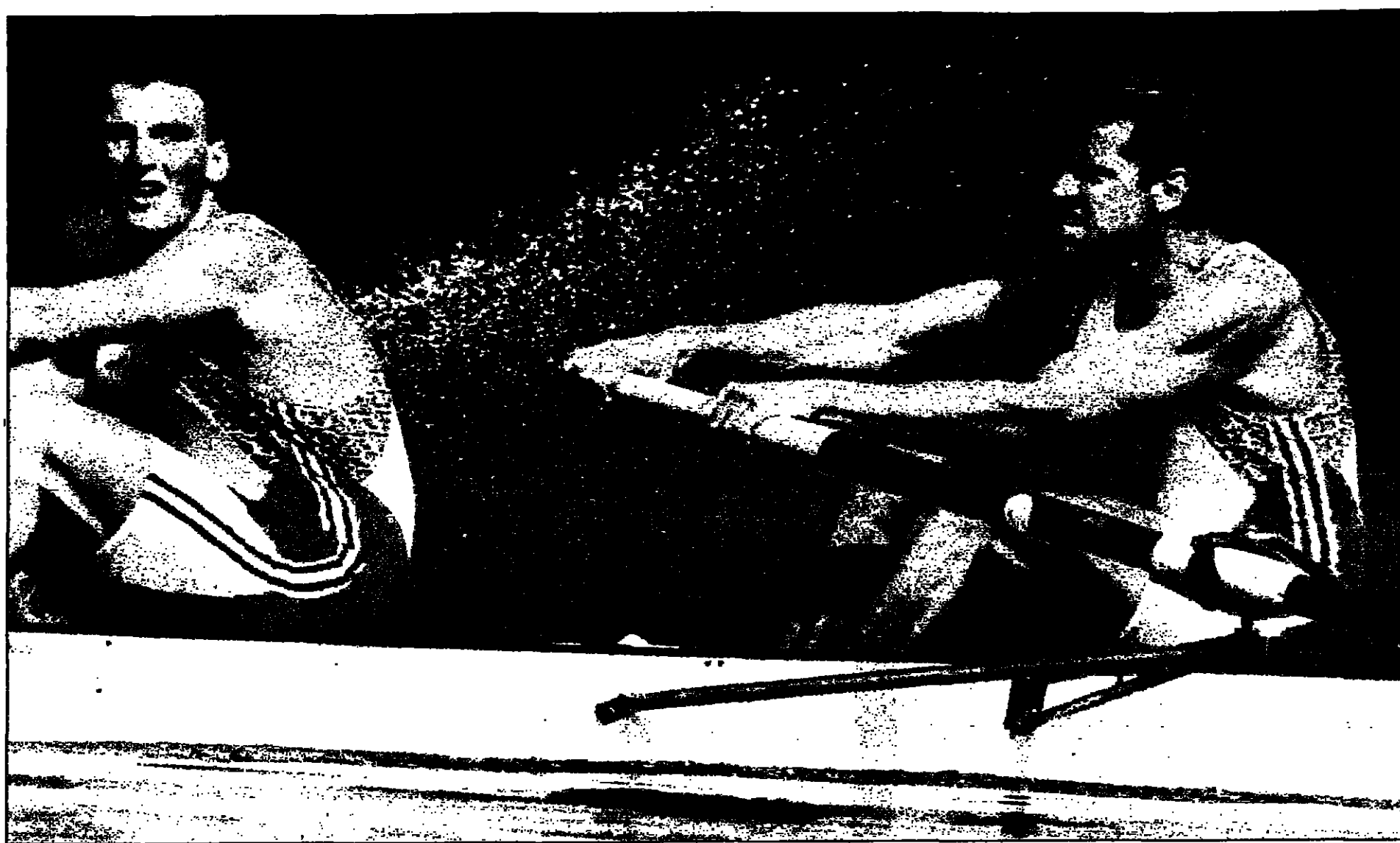
The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 4.00 Frog.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 4.00 Frog.

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

Recent number Draw in brackets: 5-figure course and distance: 6F = 6 furlongs (1 mile 1 furlong); 1M = 1 mile; 1.2M = 1 mile 2 furlongs; 1.4M = 1 mile 4 furlongs; 1.6M = 1 mile 6 furlongs; 2M = 2 miles; 2.4M = 2 miles 4 furlongs; 2.6M = 2 miles 6 furlongs; 3M = 3 miles; 3.4M = 3 miles 4 furlongs; 3.6M = 3 miles 6 furlongs; 4M = 4 miles; 4.4M = 4 miles 4 furlongs; 4.6M = 4 miles 6 furlongs; 5M = 5 miles; 5.4M = 5 miles 4 furlongs; 5.6M = 5 miles 6 furlongs; 6M = 6 miles; 6.4M = 6 miles 4 furlongs; 6.6M = 6 miles 6 furlongs; 7M = 7 miles; 7.4M = 7 miles 4 furlongs; 7.6M = 7 miles 6 furlongs; 8M = 8 miles; 8.4M = 8 miles 4 furlongs; 8.6M = 8 miles 6 furlongs; 9M = 9 miles; 9.4M = 9 miles 4 furlongs; 9.6M = 9 miles 6 furlongs; 10M = 10 miles; 10.4M = 10 miles 4 furlongs; 10.6M = 10 miles 6 furlongs; 11M = 11 miles; 11.4M = 11 miles 4 furlongs; 11.6M = 11 miles 6 furlongs; 12M = 12 miles; 12.4M = 12 miles 4 furlongs; 12.6M = 12 miles 6 furlongs; 13M = 13 miles; 13.4M = 13 miles 4 furlongs; 13.6M = 13 miles

OLYMPIC GAMES: REDGRAVE AND PINSENT'S DAUNTING DOUBLE ACT CAN PROVIDE BRITAIN WITH A SINGULAR MOMENT TO SAVOUR



Pinsent, left, and Redgrave will be aiming to rekindle the magic of their Barcelona performance when they compete at Lake Lanier next week. Photograph: Simon Bruty

Heartbreakers feel pulse of victory

FROM DAVID MILLER
IN ATLANTA

THE builder's son and the parson's son, one nine years older than the other, one dyslexic and the other an Oxford graduate. One moody, driven, and deeply introspective; the other respectful of his unique colleague, yet a catalytic harmoniser. Together, brilliant. Physically beautiful. Technically, near perfect. Unbeatable.

Steve Redgrave and Matthew Pinsent can, alone, make the centenary Olympic Games memorable for Britain. They bring to rowing what Lasse Viren, of Finland, did to running. Endurance plus a devastating finish. The defence of their coxed pairs title at Lake Lanier tomorrow week should be one of the epic moments of the next fortnight. They are the Rolls and the Royce of the British Olympic team.

Redgrave is reaching for a record unequalled in modern times by anyone other than Al Oerter, the United States discus gold medal-winner at four Olympics. Besides three golds and one bronze, the latter in the coxed pairs in 1988, Redgrave has six world championship golds. Pinsent has an Olympic gold and four world titles.

There are some 200 strokes

in the 2km race. In the past four years they have trained the equivalent of 30 hours for each stroke. There are seven minutely-synchronised phases to one stroke. In unison, the massive power of two men is concentrated, funnelled, delivered and released through two small blades as though it came from one motor. "There shouldn't be a single stroke not thought out," Redgrave said. "Never mind that their heartbeats soar beyond 160 as they near the finish."

About to row the first race of the season this year, in Italy, against most of their expected rivals in Atlanta, Redgrave murmured to Pinsent, sitting in front of him: "They've been dreaming of winning Olympic gold all winter. Let's take their dream away." They did, at a canter.

The intimidating prospect for every other pair is that the two Britons can match anyone's endurance, at any stroke-rate, for seven-eighths of the race and then produce a demolishing sprint over the last 250 metres.

That is what they did at the Banyoles course four years ago in Barcelona, and it was one of the most awesome sights of the Games. While the hair's-breadth victory of the Searle brothers in the coxed pairs was the race of the Games, the crushing margin

of Redgrave and Pinsent was the performance of the Games. Their target for next Saturday is to go four seconds faster.

For no reward other than the grant and sponsorship that bring in upwards of £30,000 a year, much of it absorbed in training and travelling expenses, they have continued their search for flawless balance and rhythm under stress. So focused has been their monk-like devotion to the cause, they have not paused to think how they will



1990. With Andy Holmes, Redgrave had won the coxed pairs in Seoul two years before, while Pinsent was still a junior world championship gold medal-winner. In the winter of 1989, Redgrave's new partner, Simon Beresford,

handle life after Atlanta.

The one thing we do know,

Pinsent said, "is that it will be easier with a gold medal in your hand."

Of course they might lose, but it is never a possibility that they contemplate.

They came together in 1990. With Andy Holmes, Redgrave had won the coxed pairs in Seoul two years before, while Pinsent was still a junior world championship gold medal-winner. In the winter of 1989, Redgrave's new partner, Simon Beresford,

was injured and the merger with Pinsent, Redgrave reflects, "was a natural".

Their harmony surprised even rowing acquaintances, the more so when Jürgen Grobler, their coach, switched Redgrave to the back of the boat. Could he, difficult and, in many ways, a loner, accept this?

"I think we're quite good at communicating," Pinsent said, perhaps overlooking that his articulate manner helps make this possible. "We pick out each other's moods, we compete with each other [in training schedules, in strength trials] but it never spills over into something you can't leave at the [locker room] door. There are no grudges."

Redgrave, reluctant to articulate, a man who had left school at 16 and by the time he met his wife had hardly read a book, had been known to throw things.

Yet so huge is Redgrave's capacity for work, so unsparring his self-denial, so exceptional his rowing talent, that Pinsent felt emotionally bonded to him by admiration, if nothing else. When they won in 1992, they instinctively knew that they would continue to Atlanta. Together they had discovered a sporting liaison with which few are blessed.

Such is the mental synchronisation in the boat

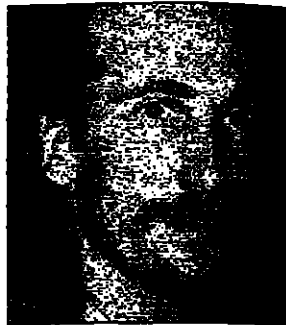
that Redgrave can read Pinsent's moment-by-moment reaction merely by looking at his back. In the extremes of fatigue that rowers experience, they feel no pain. If there is pain in a race, then they know something is wrong. At the conclusion of heats and semi-finals, they never show elation or weariness: that would reveal to rivals that they were relieved, or drained. Heartbreakers indeed.

They have that pure, absolute ambition of the greatest sports performers, such as Matthews or Hutton or Coe: to define themselves by their achievements. Should any commercial reward come their way, it will be nice but coincidental. "We train each day till we know we have done enough," Pinsent said, as if it were a matter of clearing up paperwork at the office.

They smile unreservedly at confusion among the public about their fame. "Is the little guy with you today?" is often the question from those confusingly referring to Johnny Herbert, the Searle's cox at the victory podium. Redgrave and Pinsent have only the Atlanta podium on their minds, but if they should fail, then they might try again. "We'd want to do something about it," Redgrave said, darily.

Body of water forced to go against the flow

SIMON BARNES



Atlanta sketch

You hear a lot about "sacrifice" at the Olympics. I am not happy with the term: you can't really sacrifice something for yourself. Can you? But it is true that elite athletes have chosen not to live like the rest of us. They have done so in order not to be like the rest of us.

They do not even look like the rest of us. The best place to understand that is at the pool, since the athletes are more or less naked in front of you. William Burroughs called the human body "the soft machine"; watching the swimmers, you can see that he was right about soft, but wrong about machine.

What is it that these people, supreme athletes to a man, to a woman have — no, not sacrificed — but anyway done to get like this? And what parts of normal life have they given up? Tom Dolan has given up breathing.

A bit extreme, that. Dolan stands 6ft 6in and is a lean, pared-down 12st 12lb, including earring and goatee. And he suffers from asthma: so badly that twice he has passed out in the pool. This is a fairly dangerous place to choose for passing out. "I went under. Grabbed a lane-rope. Felt really out of it. Then I got out and sat in a chair. That's when it really came on," he said.

Dolan also has a congenitally narrow windpipe. It is 20 per cent narrower than it should be. Breathing, then, is not a straightforward business for Dolan. He never knows when a problem will flare up. Mostly it happens during practice, but that is because he spends most of his life practising like most elite swimmers, he swims upwards of 100 kilometres a week. But it has happened in competition as well. "I just try not to worry about it," he said.

A lot of swimmers have asthma; in fact, many asthmatic children go into the sport because doctors believe it is good for the condition.

But exercise can also prompt asthma attacks. For Dolan, sport is a permanent threat to his well-being. Something perpetually in ambush, loss of feeling in his arms and legs and then black-out. The condition would probably diminish if he gave up trying to be a champion. "I am a competitive person, it doesn't matter if I can't breathe or if I pass out."

There is plenty of medication available to asthma sufferers, but most of it is banned for competitive athletes. This grieves Dolan, because he reckons he would go faster if he took them. Athletes are like that, you see.

He shares the spotlight in the United States swimming team with Janet Evans. She is now at her third Olympic

Games and has four gold medals. She is 24 and hobbling over with excitement about her impending retirement.

"I want my shoulders to shrink so I can wear sundresses," she said. "So I won't swim for at least a year. I'm looking forward to sleeping in and not smelling of chlorine. After ten years of chlorinated water and looking at a black line — I just want to try something else."

There is not an ounce of regret in her voice, still self-pity. She has achieved wonderful things, but they do not come without a lot of years and a lot of chlorine. It has not been a life like anybody else's. And then to the pool, where Evans like an old lag is counting her work-outs to retirement. "Six more! Six more!" All swimmers look extraordinary, as I say, but there, at a corner, are the most extraordinary of all. This is the China women's team.

They seem neither begotten nor made, rather extruded by some extraordinary industrial process. So sleek and smooth: there appears to be an extra muscle, one that the rest of us don't possess, grafted onto the front of their thighs.

I saw a swimmer from Taiwan walk past them, same Chinese features but a normal, if wonderfully athletic, body. Ying Shan, the biggest of the women from China, is tipped to win the 100 metres freestyle. She rose from the pool for a moment's break in her work-out, powerful and impossibly smooth, and for a moment you wondered if she was able to breathe on land.

What has she "sacrificed" to become such a person? What life has she led? But Chinese athletes operate through a veil of mystery, one pierced by occasional revelations. The diver, Fu Mingxia, did not see her parents for the three years before she became world champion at the age of 12. Hunter S. Thompson said it: "When the going gets tough, the weird get going."

Pound survives an unlikely challenge

FROM DAVID MILLER

THE International Olympic Committee (IOC), it is alleged, is run by old men out of touch with sport. With the election to the executive board this week of Thomas Bach, of Germany, an Olympic fencing champion in 1976, there are now six medal-winners serving on the board.

There are two champions, Pal Schmitt of Hungary, also in fencing, and Berti Becher, of Australia, on the track, and Chic Igaya, of Japan, in skiing, both won silver medals. Richard Pound, of Canada, a swimmer, and Anita DeFranz, of the United States, in rowing, each won bronze.

On Wednesday, the IOC narrowly avoided acute embarrassment when Pound was elected vice-president by only two votes, 46-48, ahead of Ashwini Kumar, of India. If Pound, a Montreal QC, were paid for the services he renders to the Olympic movement as honorary executive, it would cost several hundred thousand dollars a year. He is the negotiator who has secured, from television and

sponsors, deals worth several billion dollars that make the Games secure up to 2008. Additionally, he chairs two important commissions dealing with new sources of finance and co-ordination of the Games.

To have rejected him would have been absurd. The trouble is that Pound has been his own worst enemy, intolerant of fools and impatient with rank-and-file IOC members. "Maybe I'm not the most charismatic," he reflected, shocked by the apparent snub from half the members.

The vote was a reflection of two factors: resentment from the floor of his aloof power and long-term manoeuvring by rival candidates to succeed Juan Antonio Samaranch as president, such as Dr Un Yong Kim, of South Korea, and Mario Vazquez Rana, of Mexico. Kumar, elderly and dignified, was no more than a pawn for Pound's attempted removal. The message, however, is loud and clear. There are voters out there who have to be politically courted if the IOC is to stay on course.

Fame helps Van Almsick's fortune

Craig Lord on whether the queen of swimming can find her golden crown

THE richest swimmers in the world have arrived in Atlanta and are ready to capitalise on their communist past. Amid the melee of medal-chasers, coaches and cameramen at the Georgia Tech pool, it was easy to find the richest woman in the sport. Just follow the line of 40 or more zoom lenses.

At the end was Franziska van Almsick, born in East Germany but long-since blessed with the riches of the west. The frenzy over "Franzi" is understandable, the allure of her aquatic eminence sharpened by the chiselled features of a catwalk model and a propensity to drama.

This weekend will be the most important of her sports career, and her bank balance, for years to come. Between her and an Olympic title stand the Chinese, first in the 100 metres freestyle early tomorrow, and then on Sunday, when she will line up in the 200 metres with Chinese newcomers worthy of replacing Lu Bin, who was suspended for steroid abuse after finishing runner-up to the German schoolgirl at the world championships in 1994.

Also in the reckoning in the latter is Claudia Poll, a tall Costa Rican of German extraction but at the pool yesterday,

all focus was on van Almsick, who has attracted DM5 million (about £2.1 million) since winning four medals, none gold, at Barcelona in 1992.

Poll, practising two lanes over, was all but ignored by the German media, a dozen of whom are employed solely to follow their star. The South American, who begins training at 4am in water measuring

13°C, claims to have earned "virtually nothing from my sport".

The only European woman likely to steal van Almsick's thunder is Krisztina Egerszegi, of Hungary, who has also benefited from early beginnings in a regimented state system but who now wallows in the financial rewards of her excellence.



Van Almsick, paddles strapped to her hands, trains at the Georgia Tech pool in Atlanta yesterday

Egerszegi was 14 when she first won the 200 metres backstroke title, in Seoul, and she went on to retain the title in Barcelona. Her mastery of water is such that the element appears to make way for her, hardly a wave to be seen as the long purple-painted fingernails that she has made her trademark break the surface.

The Hungarian postponed retirement in 1994 after defeat and the loss of her world 100 metres backstroke record to He Chong, one of an army of Chinese debutantes.

Atlanta will be the swansong of "Eger" (which is Hungarian for mouse), who is recognisable to 98 per cent of her compatriots and who has ploughed a substantial part of her earnings into her business, The Mousehole, one of the most popular restaurants in Budapest.

If she retains her 200 metres backstroke title, she will join Dawn Fraser in the history books, the Australian being the only swimmer to win an Olympic title at three Games.

Lasting fame also beckons for Alexander Popov, the Russian who aims to become the first man since Johnny "Tarzan" Weissmuller in 1928 to retain the men's 100 metres freestyle title.

Memories appear short for Chinese

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

CHINA'S Olympic officials appear to be suffering from a monumental lapse of memory if the comments of Wei Jizhong, the secretary-general of the Chinese Olympic Committee, are anything to go by.

Wei, who is also the deputy chief of staff for China in Atlanta, said: "Our swimmers are still being wrongly accused. The record demonstrates that Chinese swimmers have not been testing positive. It is not fair."

It is also not true, as 19 Chinese swimmers have been suspended for drug abuse since 1991, among them Lu Bin and Yang Aihua, both world champions, and all but one of the tests were for anabolic steroids.

Wei notes that Jessica Foschi, an American teenager, had tested positive and had still been allowed to compete. He failed to note that Fina, the international governing body, has suspended Foschi for two years, just as it did with the Chinese. He also linked to the Chinese experience the case of Samantha Riley, of Australia, the world champion breast-

stroke swimmer. Wei failed to note that her offence involved a substance found in a headache pill — a world away from 18 steroid tests.

South Korea's only medal-winning competitor is in hospital with a broken wrist after crashing on the road leading to the venue on Wednesday. Lee Jin-ok, 34, fell off his bike inside the Georgia International Horse Park compound and was taken to nearby Rockdale for surgery.

The Mongolia team has arrived in Atlanta being dispersed over three continents. They were split up after their scheduled flight from Peking was cancelled and they were obliged to take other flights.

At Oerter, a four-time gold medal-winning discus thrower, will be the last torch bearer before the Olympic flame enters the stadium for the opening ceremony in Atlanta tonight.

A total of 192 national teams have registered at the Games with only five — Laos, Burma, Turkmenistan, Guinea-Bissau and Sudan — still to arrive.

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GOLF: HOME CROWD PROVIDES SOME PREMIUM BONDING AS TOURNAMENT FAVOURITE CELEBRATES IN STYLE

Faldo puts the icing on birthday cakewalk

IT WAS Nick Faldo's 30th birthday yesterday, and even though he strode out to greet the day at 7.30am there were plenty of other early-risers there to help the favourite for the Open Championship light his cake. His comrades brought different gifts as he teed-off in search of his fourth Open title, and, after an unpromising start, he blew the candles out.

Fuzzy Zoeller, six years older, brought along his courtly manner and good grace, which appeal to everybody. His department is as deliberate as that of Jerry Lewis in *The King of Comedy*, and his play was bright. True to form, he whistled a few happy tunes (when he was out of Faldo's earshot) and enjoyed himself thoroughly. He would have gone round in two under par had he not two-putted on the final green.

Robert Allenby, the 35-year-old Australian, brought his youthful enthusiasm and a growing reputation. His 74 was part of that familiar routine for young men on the rise, the "learning process". It included a seven on the par-four 3rd, when he took a drop. The crowd that followed the three players brought their goodwill, and by the end of a round that began with a bogey on the 1st, Faldo was happy to return it.

"I've never had so many people cheering, and supporting me, so it was nice," he said. "I'm very appreciative." Faldo has not always craved, or earned, popular acclaim but when he came up the 18th fairway he was hailed as an emperor, which, in a way, he is.

MICHAEL HENDERSON



At Royal Lytham and St Annes

The Open has become his kingdom in the past few years and he is not about to relinquish the *droit de seigneur* just yet. To prove it, he signed off with a regal birdie, his fourth, to give him a three-under-par 68.

All in all it was a fair day's work, after he had struggled initially to sink puts on the slow greens. Chance after chance went begging until his luck began to change. "I had the chances but, in the end, I was just pleased to play the back nine in three under par. That was pretty good," he said.

For Allenby, a stick-like colt from Melbourne, the day was a mix of delight and disappointment. He was a shot up after the 1st, three down after the 3rd and hit an eagle on the par-five 6th. He finished three over after saving par on the 18th, where his tee-shot sliced



So close: Faldo gives vent to his anguish as an attempted birdie putt at the 17th narrowly misses the target

into the crowd. There were times, though, when he seemed to spend more time in the sand than Lawrence of Arabia.

Faldo had risen at 5am, a challenging hour for any clear-headed sportsman, and a bogey four at the 1st was the prelude to an hour of scrapping for par. He made a birdie at the 6th and came within a tissue of adding four more until a superb tee-shot on the 11th enabled him to achieve another.

With his sails nicely filled on a scorching day, Faldo was now in his element, striding

forcefully from tee to green. The crowds along the fairways picked up his mood and when he putted from 12ft at the 15th for his third birdie, there was much whooping.

Regrettably, there was also that verbal abomination, "Way to go!", from an English voice. Like the wearing of a baseball cap back to front, it is a silly American practice appropriated by the weak-minded for no necessary purpose.

Otherwise, the crowd remained responsive and fair-minded in their acclaim for good shots. To watch golfers as good as these in blissful

conditions is about the best that sport can offer, and the spectators contributed enormously to the glory of the day. By the time Faldo underscored his signature on that final green, with a 15-footer, player and crowd were thoroughly bonded.

The birthday boy said he was happy, and he goes out today handily-placed. He knows he is capable of the lower scores he feels are essential.

"If the wind stays down there will be a lot of scores of four and five under, and it was important for me to get some-

where close," he said. "With no breeze, and a short course, I think the Americans are going to be very strong this week." That includes honorary Americans, like Faldo.

He opened his presents later, but what could he give to his fellows? A penny whistle might suit Zoeller and a bedouin's cape would, perhaps, disguise Allenby the next time he ventures into bunker territory.

As for Faldo, it is hard to please the man who already has everything. By Sunday night he might have even more.

Impatient attitude exacts its penalties

By JOHN HOPKINS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

WHY does Colin Montgomerie have such difficulty in the opening round of the Open Championship? Starting in 1990 at St Andrews, he has not once broken par in his first round and nor did he yesterday. He was level par as he stood on the 15th tee, two over as he walked off the 18th green. A 71, which would have been the highest acceptable score on a day when scoring was easy, became a 73 when he took a six.

Was he unlucky or did he play badly? Both is the answer, as was illustrated by successive strokes at the 18th. His drive toppled into sand with its last rotation, but then he decided against a cautious explosion from a fairway bunker and paid the penalty. His ball rocketed into the reviled face of the bunker, rebounded and nearly hit him, which would have been a two-stroke penalty.

It should also be noted that Montgomerie hit some magnificent drives, often on holes where Brad Faxon and David Frost, his playing partners, used irons from the tee. "He is very confident with the driver," Faxon said, a touch of admiration in his voice.

Montgomerie shimmered in the heat and shimmered close to boiling point throughout much of his round. As early as the 6th he was complaining to David Garland, of the PGA European Tour and the rules official accompanying his threesome, about spectators with cameras. On the 15th tee he was heard to say that the Masters "has it right. No cameras, no press". On the 17th he railed at someone: "You can hide, you've done it now."

His inability to block out actual and potential irritations is disturbing in one so good. "You wouldn't want to be near him if you were a fan with a camera," Faxon said. "It is as if he is happiest when he is telling someone off." Montgomerie was feeling frustrated for, though he had driven well, he had putted diffidently. He was short with his first putt on the 1st, 3rd, 6th, 8th, 9th and 16th holes. The longest putt he holed was three feet. One reason for this is that he did not get the ball up to the hole often enough for it to have a chance of going in.

When he rolled in a six-footer on the 10th and followed this with a magnificent fairway wood on the 11th, one thought he would shed this burden of impatience. "Come on, grumpy," a fan said and momentarily he looked more cheery. It did not last long because his ball bounced into a bunker on the 12th and into a difficult position from which to play, from near the back wall. He continued to hit some good shots, his second on the 16th, his second on the 17th being good examples.

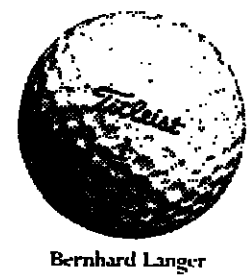
Yet he gave the impression to spectators and playing partners alike that he was operating on a short fuse. Patience is an attribute he has yet to learn. As Faxon was to say later: "It is hard to play golf without it."



Ernie Els



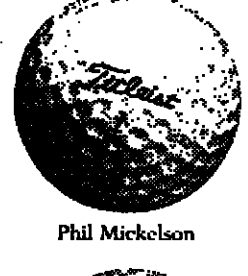
Steve Elkington



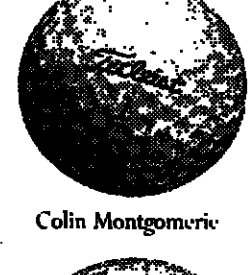
Bernhard Langer



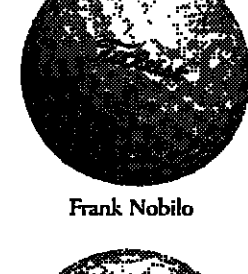
Davis Love III



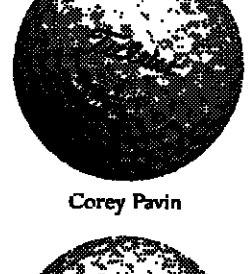
Phil Mickelson



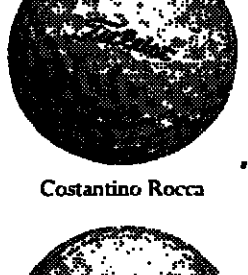
Colin Montgomerie



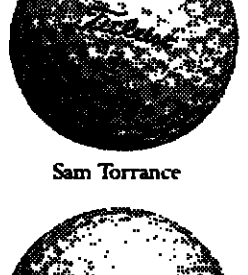
Frank Nobilo



Corey Pavin



Costantino Rocca



Sam Torrance



To name but a few:

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Welcoming the 19th hole with Open arms

I would like to recommend Ansdell and Fairhaven station. It is an uncomplaining railway terminal boasting but a single platform at which the train stops on its way south to where Albert was eaten by the lion: a quarter of an hour later the three-carriage diesel returns from whence it came — Preston.

The northeastern exit of Ansdell and Fairhaven station is an excellent place to be, especially if you have goodish eyesight or own binoculars. It is adjacent to the 8th green and overlooks the short 9th of Royal Lytham and St Annes. A man could stand there and get a pretty adequate idea of what goes on without the hassle of buying tickets, displaying badges and waiting for people empowered to control the ebb and flow of humanity, to direct them hither and hence. It was from this vantage point that I observed

three men I did not know hit balls I could not see to a green that was just out of vision... but by the applause accorded one player, the oohs that met the others and the body language of all participants I followed proceedings with considerable enjoyment in the company of folk who were making a day of it there. "Should work harder."

Freud favours the easy way, schoolmaster Rotherham wrote in my end-of-term report many years ago. Recalling this harsh assessment of my industry, I summoned the energy to make my way along neat suburban roads to the clubhouse and media centre. Once arrived, I followed the Open Championship as the organisers intended. Once again I have failed sartorially. My trousers were long when the fashion is to wear shorts, my shirt was a primary colour, long-sleeved and tailored while all around wore T-shirts in pastel shades

Clement Freud concludes his summer season with a disappointing visit to the links of Royal Lytham and St Annes

and I had neither panama hat nor spiked shoes.

There are a number of ways of watching championship golf. You can occupy a seat in a stand surrounding a particular green and become hugely knowledgeable on, say, the short 5th. Take it as your subject on *Mastermind*, read about who did what, when, at that location in the eight previous Lytham Opens. It is a minimalist pursuit, the half-acre in your field of vision confines pleasure though in the distance is the scoreboard which tells you of players' progress around the course.

Or you can select a threesome and follow them on their four-and-a-half-hour peregrination, learn their

strengths and weaknesses and admire the officials who hold up "Quiet" and "Stand still" signs. I expect they go home and tell their families they are "running the Open".

Refreshment points are dotted around the course: very ordinary cold fizzy drinks. Obvious food from the consumption of which people dissuade you. Egg and sausage sandwiches, really thin white wine, heavy hog-roast buns unsuited to temperatures in the eighties.

At around noon I disengaged myself from the marching crowd, many of whom wore Senior Citizen labels in their lapels; this is downright cruel, as if you could not tell by looking at us. I sit down overlooking the

18th green, sit next to a man with so immaculately creased red trousers that he hovers to preserve their sharpness. The 18th is 414 yards. In the distance you see three huddles of player-and-caddy lining up second shots and three balls land on the green: plop, plop, plop; we applaud, applaud, applaud.

The players approach the green, Faldo, Zoeller, Allenby, and putt to obtain respectively birdie, bogey, par. Fifteen minutes later Faldo appears in the media centre for his interview. "Talk us through the highs and lows of your round," his inquisitor said.

The first I pulled a three-iron, had a good save on three flying a five-iron; six I came up short, good pitch: good save on 13, holed from 15 feet and birdied the last; pleased to have played the last nine in three under," Faldo speaks in a monotone, told a questioner that teeing

off at 7.30am presented no problem; he got up at 5am. Another got the message that it was great to have so many people supporting him, shouting happy birthday. There was no smile.

As a performance it was entirely dull and patronising to boot. Faldo manifests neither fluency nor warmth: district surveyors' reports at housing committee meetings are more fun to witness. Were he less than staggeringly brilliant, he would have few fans.

Of course, it is not over until the fat lady sings and she has yet to approach the piano. By Sunday evening, when the winner walks up the final fairway to the whippers of "He's the man", some 200,000 spectators will have been to Royal Lytham. With the exception of those getting paralytic in the event of a rain, watching the event on television, I envy them hardly at all.

Daly's gallop halted over closing stretch

By PATRICIA DAVIES

IT ALL started so well for John Daly, the defending champion, at Lytham yesterday but the glory of being five under par after 11 holes became dearie, dearie with four bogeys in the last seven holes.

There was a calm, cool, otherworldly atmosphere as he, Phil Mickelson and Satoshi Higashi waited to tee off in the shade. "On the tee, John Daly," announced Ivor Robson, the starter, and that was it. The defence began without acclaim or applause because there is no room for stands or fans at Lytham's first hole, a par three of 206 yards. Daly hit and, eerily, there still was not a sound because the blond bomber, who has hair at the moment, instead of a G1 stubble, had missed the green.

It was the left-handed Mickelson, all silky smoothness and deliberation, who took the initiative with birdies at the 2nd and 3rd. He narrowly missed a 12-foot putt for another birdie at the 4th and his game rather misfired from there on. His second nine included four bogeys and he finished with a round

of 72, one over par. Daly holed a three-footer for his first birdie, at the 3rd, visited a tangle of rough at the 4th — but had a good lie and secured his par — before a run of three successive birdies. He was not happy with his tee-shot at the 5th — a hand came off the club — but he rolled home a 27-foot putt for an unlikely two.

The driver came out for the first time at the 490-yard 6th, where he bombed the ball over the bunker on the left, a carry of about 250 yards. "Was that the driver?" a spectator opposite the ball, asked. He was 330-odd yards from the tee but such is Daly's aura that the fan was not sure the man from Arkansas could not hit the ball that far with an iron.

All he needed was a sand-wedge to the green and he was even more awesome at the next, 553 yards of par five. The drive left him with 171 yards to the pin and he hit a wedge. Two drivers, two fairways hit; mere birdies were poor reward.

He also birdied the 11th, the third and last par five but the net set in when he was bunkered at the short 12th and his six-foot putt to save par hurled four feet past the hole. Daly dropped another shot at the next, which he played via the grandstand. A par four at the 14th was routine — a drive that landed on the front of the 6th tee, further left than Lenin ever was, a blind second shot over bushes to the front of the green and two putts.

Daly is rarely dull and his capacity to entertain and amaze make him compulsive viewing. Having started in silence, he finished to tumultuous applause.

TEE-OFF TIMES

Great Britain and Ireland unless stated

07.00: R Bower, T Price (Aus), S Luthi (Sp)
07.11: D Duval (US), W Austin (US), B Lane
07.22: J Leonard (US), B Galt (Aus), P McInerney
07.33: S Simpson (US), S Elkington (Aus), S Cragg
07.44: E Romano (Arg), L Jansen (US), C Rocca (It)
07.55: W Black, A O'Brien, S Barnes
08.06: J Daly (US), P Mickelson (US), S Higashi (Japan)
08.17: J Jonzon (Swe), R Tway (US), S Annes (Ire)
08.28: M Calzaghe (US), C Stricker (US), P J. Johnson (Swe)
08.39: G Brandt Jr, S Manayama (Japan), J Nishikawa (US)
08.50: V Singh (Ind), M Fanny (Fr), J Park (US)
09.01: T Hearn (US), M McIlroy (Ire), A Coles (Ire)
09.12: A Coles, F Nobilo (NZ), M Brooks (US)
09.23: P Hearn (Swe), S E. Elia (US), C Stadler (US)
09.34: C Perry (Aus), A Lyle, P Ashner (US)
09.45: D Clark, R Gossain (SA), T Woods (US)
09.56: S O'Connell (US), M Price (Zim), P Watson
10.07: J Robinson, S Garcia (Sp), T Hamilton (US)
10.18: G Player (SA), C Pavin (US), J Wootton
10.29: P Mitchell, M Campbell (NZ), R McLeod (US)
10.40: C Mason, T Bort (Ire), S Bortolero
10.51: S Grapenhorst (US), C Sorenson (US), R Todd (Ire)
11.02: G Love, D Russell, M Finkel (US)
11.13: J J. Coors (Arg), S Thirring (Den), K Fukunaga (Japan)
11.24: D J. Russell, D Hopton (US), G Brown
11.35: K Eriksson, M Hultberg (Swe), J Townsend (US)
11.46: M Mackenzie, A Langenast (Bel), R Wilson
11.57: P Lewis, J Fawcett (Sp), S Watts
12.08: D Gifford, I Baker-Finch (Aus), P Stewart (US)
12.19: N Faldo, R Allenby (Aus), F Zoeller (US)
12.30: R McFarlane, S Hughes (Aus), W Majumdar
12.41: F Couples (US), M McDunbar (US), P Harrington
12.52: L Wierwood, S Jones (US), W Piley (Aus)
13.03: M James, P O'Halloran (US), T Toles (US)
13.14: J Parnelly (Swe), R Charles (NZ), P Jacobson (US)
13.25: B Langer (Ger), T Kile (US), Y Kaneko (Japan)
13.36: H Tanaka (Japan), S Ballesar (Sp), J Mielgrod (US)
13.47: B Faxon (US), D Frost (SA), C Montgomerie
13.58: D Feherty, J Haeggen (Swe), D A. Wolberg (US)
14.09: J Haas (US), P Sotir (Aus), H Clark
14.20: M O'Meara (US), T Lehman (US), A Forsbrand (Swe)
14.31: L Roberts (US), G Turner (NZ), S Torrance
14.42: G Norman (Aus), S Stricker (US), J Payne
14.53: R Eales (US), W Westner (SA), P Eales
15.04: M A. Jimenez (Sp), A Johnston (Zim), J Saman (US)
15.15: P Barchus, D Borrego (Sp), D Love III (US)
15.26: R Drummond, S Field, M Welch
15.37: R Chapman, R Loe, H Muesel (Japan)
15.48: J. S. F. Tarnaud (Fr), B McColl
15.59: D Smyth, A Leacock (Fr), A Mednick (Swe)
16.10: G Emerson, S Allen (Aus), M Lillon
16.21: E Darcy, S Murphy (US), A Sherborne

* denotes amateur

Norman fails to make storming start in opening exchanges

Mel Webb witnesses the unusual sight of the Great White Shark merely treading water

IT IS a frustrating business, taking a four-mile hike in the heat of the day and getting nowhere. Greg Norman forgot the way yesterday and looked thoroughly lost. Talk about a good walk spoiled — for all the progress he made, he might just as well have been taking a stroll on the beach with his dog.

At least he did not fall into the awful pit he has dug for himself in major championships; that of making haste backwards at inopportune moments. It is a disease that is characterised by what might be called Shark Syndrome, the principal symptom of which consists of a sharp decline in form followed by severe injury to the curriculum vitae.

He has had so many setbacks in majors, either due to his own frailties or the heroic deeds of others, that it has become almost a way of life. Other men's psyches would have crumbled to dust long before now; Norman, whatever else, is nothing if not resilient.

He was playing on this opening day with Steve Stricker, the young American whose two US Tour victories have brought him sudden fame this season, and Jim Payne, the lean and lanky Italian Open champion from the flatlands of Lincolnshire. For a good deal of the time, Norman was outplayed by Stricker and made to look merely human by Payne. It was not, all in all, a terribly satisfactory day for the Australian.

Indeed, for most of it he was living in close proximity to anonymity, if being a 6ft 11in blond in a big white hat can be called anonymous. He was even put in the

shade, in height if not in achievement, by the 6ft 4in Payne.

Norman occasionally has days like this, days when he is a distracted air about him, in the piece but not of it. When in this mode, he hits the ball well enough, but no more, off tee and fairway, he is adequate from short range, while the most damaging part of his game is that he cannot buy a putt for love nor money, the latter of which he has coming out of his ears.

Only once on a low-key front nine did he sink anything worthwhile, a

12-foot putt on the par-five 6th bringing him an eagle after he had hit a good drive followed by a six-iron second shot pin-high to the left. Apart from that, it was not stirring to behold; just a random collection of pars with a couple of three-putt bogeys, from 15 and 25 feet, thrown in for bad measure.

He had his chances on the very much tougher back nine — on four holes running from the 13th, he missed by a gnat's eyebrow on the slow Lytham greens. Others in a similar situation would have cursed their lack of luck. Norman was almost impassive; he was, in the argot of the Irish, away with the fairies.

He was not downhearted after he had signed for a 71, level par, but then he rarely is after the first round of a major. It was not possible to win the Championship yesterday, but it was most assuredly feasible to lose it. He did not do that, so lives to fight another day.

"I feel I'm right in there," he said, with a touch of asperity. "This is a 72-hole tournament, not an 18-hole medal. My putting let me down. I haven't putted well since May. I must be more aggressive — the greens are slower than we are used to, but at this level we should make the transition without problems — but I'm still confident."

It was said with an air of hope rather than expectation, and a phrase involving the dark and whistling in it sprang immediately to mind. Over-bastiness in dismissing him from contention should, however, be strenuously avoided; people have done that before to their cost.



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OLYMPIC GAMES: BASKETBALL GIANT'S \$123 MILLION DEAL SIGNALS ARRIVAL OF NEW ERA IN ATLANTA

O'Neal cashes in as Dream Team returns to spotlight

By ANDREW LONGMORE

THE official opening ceremony for the Centennial Olympic Games is scheduled for tonight, but the true symbol of the modern Olympics was revealed yesterday. He is 7ft 1in tall, weighs in at just over 300lb and his bank balance will be swelled over the next seven years by the Los Angeles Lakers to the tune of \$123 million (almost £30 million), a sum that would bankroll most Olympic nations through the next century.

Shaquille O'Neal faced the press with the 11 poorer millionaire members of Dream Team II yesterday. Half the talk was about how much it meant to them all to win Olympic gold, the other half was about how they could win Olympian-sized pots of the stuff back in the treasure trove of the National Basketball Association, known to all as, simply, the NBA.

Only Shaq himself was not playing the game. "I will be answering questions on my new contract," he announced in dark tones. "The Reebok tent at 3pm." The Reebok tent? Oh yes. Turn left at the Coca-Cola centennial village, straight past Nike Park, leave the Swatch House on your left and there it is. The Reebok tent. If you get to the Speedo Palace, you have gone too far.

Could the timing of the deal, on the eve of what has long been labelled the Coca-Cola Games, have anything to do with O'Neal's multi-million dollar endorsement of Pepsi? Perish the thought. But the only irony comparable to the biggest deal in American sporting history heralding the start of the most overtly commercial Games in history was the sight of the one white face (John Stockton) lining up in the Dream Team in a city that was once the headquarters of the Klu-Klux Klan.

Yet, in a bizarre way, the centennial Olympic circle has

been neatly completed. The Dream Teamers are no different from the wealthy amateurs on whom the original Olympic spirit was founded. O'Neal can afford to adhere to the true spirit of sportsmanship and competition just as his team represent the pinnacle of many of the Olympic's more noble virtues. Hard work, excellence, fairness.

When Hakeem "the Dream" Olajuwon, the Nigerian-born centre who led the Houston Rockets to successive

the night counting what he got. Karl "The Mailman" Malone (he always delivers) of the Jazz added, "but at least Shaq's doing the business. There are guys out there getting a whole load of money for not doing much. All I know is that we ain't got that sort of money in Utah."

Argentina, the Americans' first opponents tomorrow night, will hope that counting dollar bills might send the team to sleep. It is their only chance. Everyone's only chance — but there were few words of comfort from Lenny Wilkens, the superstars' head coach. "There were more legendary figures on the 1992 team," he said, "but this team has more versatility. It can get after teams and have a more aggressive defence. Every one of these guys will be in the Hall of Fame eventually."

Luckily, there were distractions from the weighty issues of how much everyone was earning and how much they wanted to win. "I'm new to this business. Why is it you get two points for putting the ball in the basket?" one young Danish journalist asked. Malone did not know quite where to start. "Them's the rules of the game, man, and don't try to change them," he said.

Then came the little matter of the Australian who had invoked Barkley's wrath in one of the practice games and paid the penalty. "He was a talkative sort of a fellow and a couple of the names he called me I didn't appreciate."

Barkley, one of the survivors from Barcelona and never one to pull his punches off court either, thought the original Dream Team better than this one. No one is likely to get close enough to find out. In the community of the Games, the Dream Team are a team apart, a lucrative sideshow. Perhaps they are just too good for the Olympics.



NBA championships, says that Olympic gold would be the highlight of his career, there is no reason to disbelieve him. The team have donated their \$15,000 fees to the black churches, according to Charles Barkley.

Judging by some of the long faces and gritted teeth around him, though, O'Neal's big deal has not found universal favour with his team-mates. They appreciate the principle, but not the figures.

"Good luck to Shaq," Penny Hardaway, O'Neal's former sidekick with the Orlando Magic, said. "It's not getting too crazy. Players are now taking full advantage of their worth and that's a great situation for them."

"I'd have to spend most of



O'Neal's brilliance is earning him a fortune and will surely earn a gold medal

Capobianco cleared by Australian authorities

FROM JOHN GOODBODY IN ATLANTA

THE Australian sprinter alleged to have taken drugs, Dean Capobianco, is set to run in the Olympic Games. Athletics Australia, the governing body, has cleared Capobianco of using anabolic steroids after an inquiry in Sydney chaired by Bob Elliott, a QC and former sports minister. The athlete had faced a four-month ban if found guilty.

John Coates, the president of the Australian Olympic Committee, said here yesterday: "We have accepted the recommendation of our lawyer Simon Rafe. Dean will now be accredited and will come into the village when it suits him and his coach."

Irsan Gyalai, the general secretary of the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF), said yesterday that the world governing body was considering the case and may make a ruling on whether to allow the Australian to compete in the Games at its council meeting on July 25. Capobianco allegedly tested

positive in a meeting in Hengelo, Holland, on May 27 for stanozolol, the drug Ben Johnson took when he was stripped of his Olympic 100 metres title in Seoul in 1988.

Capobianco, who is now in hiding in the United States while continuing his training for the Games, has denied allegations that he took any banned substance. On July 4,



Capobianco: glamorous

Athletics Australia asked Elliott to chair a doping control tribunal which met on July 16. Elliott found that there were considerable gaps in the evidence of the chain of custody of the sample from Hengelo to the laboratory in Cologne, Germany, where the new \$300,000 high-resolution mass spectrometer is being used to analyse samples of

many European competitors. The same mass spectrometer will be used here to test the leading four in every event plus athletes taken at random. Elliott claims that the guidelines of the IAAF and the medical code of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) were not strictly observed when the urine specimen was taken from Holland

to Germany and he has not been provided with the proper documents for the custody of the samples. Elliott said that he should have received declarations about the custody of the samples. He said: "In cases where athletes' whole future is in balance I do not think it is too much to expect declarations from the doping control officer, who handled

the samples, the courier and a laboratory official. This is important not only to the athlete but also to the sport. This has not been done in this case."

The case will present the IAAF with a dilemma. It should set up an appeal tribunal to hear the evidence but there will not be sufficient time to do this before the Games start.

The IAAF is already battling with another doping problem involving an Italian high jumper, Antonella Bevilacqua. She tested positive for ephedrine, the stimulant used by Diego Maradona at the 1994 World Cup. In two meetings in Italy in May, an Italian magistrate, Alfredo Montagna, has accepted the case put by the Italian national athletics federation that the doping was unintentional. Bevilacqua says that she used a herbal medicine which contained ephedrine but the packaging on the drink did not list the stimulant as one of its contents.

Leading article, page 19

Sprinter's life in the fast lane

DEAN CAPOBIANCO is the most glamorous track athlete in Australia and one of the country's most eligible sporting bachelors (John Goodbody writes).

The 26-year-old sprinter posed naked for the *Black and White* Olympic special magazine in Australia. He likes fast cars and fast running and he will fight with unyielding determination to prove his innocence of taking drugs.

Yet there is another side to the sprinter: he enjoys teaching schoolchildren how to run

fast, as he has done on the tracks of the world over the last six years.

"I do work on the side and I coach kids at home at Curtin University, and not only kids but people older than me as well. I love putting back what I get out," he said.

Capobianco, who first represented Australia at the 1988 world junior championships, has been struggling to recover the form that he showed in 1993, when he was fifth in the 200 metres in the world championships in Stuttgart. He has suffered frequent

pain from an Achilles tendon injury and it has only been this year, when he took the Australian 200 metres title, that he seemed to have recovered his old form. "It is hard, every day you wake up and you are in pain and you know what you have got to do," he said about his battle to return to full fitness.

"I love everything about the sport. I even love training: staying fit is a great way to live, added the athlete, who counts sprinters, Linford Christie and Frankie Fredericks, among his close friends.

FOOTBALL

Wednesday chase Lombardo

SHEFFIELD Wednesday have tabled a £3 million bid for Attilio Lombardo, the distinctive Italian winger (David Maddock writes). David Pleat, the Wednesday manager, and David Richards, his chairman, are due to fly to Turin

this weekend for talks with Juventus officials over the proposed deal.

Lombardo, 30, who is almost as well known for his baldness as his skills on the right wing, is available after a disappointing season with

Juventus, the European champions, in which he failed to reproduce his impressive form at his previous club, Sampdoria, after breaking a leg.

Karel Poborsky, the Czech Republic midfielder player, confirmed yesterday that his heart is set on a move to Manchester United. There has been a delay in the transfer after Slavia Prague, his club, asked for a further £700,000, despite agreeing a £35 million fee with United officials.

Poborsky said yesterday: "I want to go to Manchester United and I am not interested in any other English clubs. I have told this to my club and I expect the deal to be completed by the end of the week."

Liverpool, searching for a left back, have made an offer for Robbie Elliott, the Newcastle United defender, who has been retained on only a week-to-week contract at St James' Park.

Dwight Yorke, the Aston Villa forward, has signed a new four-year contract with the Coca-Cola Cup-holders.

Paul Parker, 32, the former Manchester United and England defender, is having trials with Portsmouth.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 37

SHAPION

(a) Some kind of hat. The scanty references all refer to Scottish men's hats. Of obscure origin, but presumably related to the French *chapeau* a hat. "It's a ... to James Bessie for a new slinger and a new beaver."

SLINGER

(c) One who casts missiles by means of a sling, especially a soldier armed with a sling. Now mainly archaeological or historical. "The sympathy of hand and eye by which a practised slinger hits his mark with a stone."

SENIARY

(d) Pertaining to the number six. From the Latin *senarius* the adjective of six. The *senary* scale is the scale of arithmetical notation of which the radix is six. *Senary* division is division into six parts. "The only other class of symmetry possible in crystals is senary or hexagonal, corresponding to a rotation of one-sixth of a revolution, such as that of a regular hexagonal prism about its axis."

SLIDDER

(e) A trench or hollow running down a hill, a steep slope. From the Old English *slidan* to slide. "Tearing and wearing his corduroys, up trees and down slidders, to very reasonable tatters."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1... Rb2+; 2... Kxh2 Qh6+; 3... Kgl Bxd4+ and the white queen is lost.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Ireland sweep into final

IRELAND will meet Holland today in the final of the inaugural European cricket championship after completing a clean sweep of their qualifying group in Copenhagen. Although Ireland took only 11.4 overs to pass Gibraltar's dismal effort of 91 all out, Mike Hendrick, the coach, was far from happy with the 27 extras that his side conceded. "I'm delighted to be in the final, but we're still too inconsistent," he said.

Holland, who were dominant on the previous two days, lost by two wickets to Scotland when Keith Sheridan struck a winning single off the last ball of the final over. With each claiming two wins in group A, calculators were called on to separate Holland, Scotland and the England National Cricket Association (NCA).

Holland prevailed ahead of the NCA, who improved their run-rate significantly by rattling up 375 for nine at Ringsted and then dismissing Ireland for 38. The NCA will meet Denmark today to contest third place; Scotland play Gibraltar for fifth and the wooden spoon will go to either Italy or Israel.

Scores, page 38



Tyson: September date

BOXING: Mike Tyson's heavyweight title bout with Bruce Seldon, the World Boxing Association champion, has been rescheduled for September 7, at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

Frank Bruno, who lost his World Boxing Council title to Tyson four months ago, confirmed yesterday that he does not intend to retire.

RIFLE SHOOTING: Sodbrough School won the Ashburton Shield and schools team rifle championship at Bisley yesterday for the first time since 1921.

SQUASH: Stewart Boswell, 17, from Canberra, Australia, yesterday showed a steel and resolve beyond his years and a willingness to fight for his territory as he beat Karim El Mistikawi, of Egypt, 9-1, 4-0, 9-4, 9-4 to reach the final of the world junior men's championship in Cairo. In the second semi-final, Ahmed Faizy, of Egypt, beat Ong Beng Hee, of Malaysia, 8-10, 9-1, 9-0, 9-2, in 65 minutes.

CRICKET: Nixon McLean, a fast bowler, and Adrian Griffith, a left-handed opening batsman, are the newcomers in the West Indies party to tour Australia for a five-test series from November to February.

ROWING: The men's eight looks likely to produce the best racing when the national championships begin today at Holme Pierrepont, Nottingham. Entries include the University of London, two London RC crews and Nottingham BC, all of whom did well at Henley recently.

Special agents called G & T

Gabbias and Thring. Radio 4 (FM), 10am.

Born towards the end of the last century and still going strong, albeit no longer as a scholastic agent but as an educational consultancy, Gabbias and Thring was a powerhouse that helped to fuel the public school system. If teachers were needed, Gabbias and Thring could supply them. They had a host of future celebrities on their books: Evelyn Waugh (he immortalised them in *Decline and Fall*), John Betjeman (he mentioned them in *Summoned by Bells*), and W.H. Auden, who, in a poem, transmogrified them into Rabbit and String. The agency's coding system was eccentric. Clients were not recognised as "thorough agents" if they sported thick glasses and corduroy trousers. Kate Withers's affectionate portrait of G & T is a Friday morning treat.

A Little Discomfort in the Cause of Art. Radio 4, 9.30pm.

All of a sudden, spotlights are being trained on the Victorian photographer, Julia Margaret Cameron. The Times's Lynne Truss has written a comic novel about the Cameron years on the Isle of Wight. Now it's *Kaleidoscope's* turn to explore the character and work of this gifted eccentric. Few celebrated visitors to the island did not end up in her sister's chair, Robert Browning's pose lasted half an hour, Cameron slipped out during the session, leaving the poet to sit there, not moving a muscle. For this anecdote, and others in a similar humorous vein, our thanks to Lynne Truss.

Peter Daville

RADIO 1

FM Stereo. 6.30am Chris Evans 9.00 Simon Mayo 11.30 Radio 1 Roadshow, live from the Meadows in Edinburgh 12.30pm Kevin Greening 3.00 Mark Goodier 7.00 Essential Selection 10.00 One in the Jungle 12.00 Radio 1 Rap Show 3.00am Arnie Nightingale 5.00 Charlie Jordan

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. 6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30 Debbie Thompson 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.00 John Durn 7.00 Are You Sitting Comfortably? 7.30 Friday Night is Music Night 8.45 The Thirty-Minute Steps (10/10) 9.00 Listen to the Band 10.00 Unleashed International Broadcasting. Radio 2 Arts Programme 12.05am Charles Nova

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme 8.25 The Mega-Drive 12.00 Midday with Mer, incl 12.35pm Moneycheck with Katie Derham 1.15 The Open Coverage of the second round of the 125th Open Golf Championship from Royal Lytham St Annes. With commentary from George Bayley and Chris Rea 7.20 Friday Sport. Rugby League: Oldham v St Helens. In the Super League. Olympic: a preview of tomorrow's opening ceremony in Atlanta 9.35 Sports Show, with Adrian Goldberg 10.05 Paper Talk, with Ben Alexander and Phil Murphy 11.00 Night Extra 12.05am After Hours 2.05 AM All Night at the Olympics. Coverage of the opening ceremony

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Sally Peterson 6.00 Mike Road 9.00 Harry Kelly 12.00 Susanah Simons 2.00pm Concerto 3.00 Jamie Crook 6.00 Nightwatch 8.00 Michael Showcase 9.00 Concert 10.00 Michael Mappin 1.00am Patric Traynor

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Mark Forster 9.00 Richard Skinner 12.00 Graham Dene 4.00pm Nicky Home 7.00 Sarah Walker (FM) (AM) Robin Banks 10.00 Alan Freeman 12.00 Janey Lee Grace 2.00am Howard Pearce

TALK RADIO

6.30am Paul Ross 10.00 Scott Chisholm 1.00pm Anna Friel 3.00pm Tommy Boyd 5.00 Peter Dinkley 7.00 Sport 10.00 Mike Allen 1.00am Mike Dixon

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air. Includes Bach: (Violin Concerto in E minor, BWV 1042); Stanford (Piano Concerto, No 1); Vivaldi: (Oboe Concerto in G minor, Op 11 No 6); Janacek: (Maid); Malton: (Andante); Shostakovich: (Ballad Suite No 2) 9.00 Morning Collection with Paul Gambaccini. Beethoven: (Piano Sonata in G, Op 78; Felstein, Suite in A minor) Beethoven: (Piano Sonata in G, Op 78; Felstein, Suite in A minor) 10.00 Musical Encounters. With Mark Rowlinson. Verdi: (Grand Mass, Act 1) 10.05 Artist of the Week: Robert Lloyd: bass Mussorgsky: (The Field Marshal, Songs and Dances of Death); 10.10 Dvorak: (Suite in A, Op 98); Selsa: Key (String Quartet); Martinu: (Oboe Concerto); Ravel: (Ballet Suite in D); 11.15 Strauss: (Also sprach Zarathustra); Elgar: (The Dream of Gerontius, Part 1: Conclusion) 12.00 Composer of the Week: Haydn, with Paul Guirney 1.00pm Chamber Music: from Carlisle Priory, introduced by Rodney Sillford. French Baroque Airs; Michel Lambert: (Juge de ma douleur); de Vise: (Preludes, Allemande and Gavotte); Campe: (Centista: Anon); Anon: (J'ai passé deux jours sans vous: Si vous courez; La Barque qui m'engage); Couperin: (Prelude; Musette; Chaconne, Troisième concert royal); de Vise: (Allemande grave); Dubessan: (Pointe sur la mort de M Lambert); Michel Lambert: (Vos mépris chaque jour)

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW only) 6.00 News Briefing (LW only) 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today Incl 7.25, 8.25 Sport 7.45 Thought for the Day 8.40 Yesterday in Parliament 8.55 Weather 9.00 News 9.05 Desert Island Discs. Professor George Stiles (1) 9.45 Feedback. Chris Dunkley reads letters: comments on BBC programmes 10.00 News: Gabbias and Thring (FM only). See Choice 10.05 An Act of Worship (LW only) 10.15 On This Day (LW only) 10.30 Woman's Hour 11.30 The Natural History Programme 12.00 News: You and Yours, with Chris Choi 12.25pm The Food Programme. The last in the series, presented by Derek Cooper 12.55 Weather 1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke 1.40 The Archers (1) 1.55 Shipping Forecast 2.00 News: The Summer Series: The French Lieutenant's Woman. Dramatised by Frederick Bradburn. Charles is heading for Nemesis in Exeter — a it marriage to Emeline, his wife with Sarah/With Amanda Redman, David Threlfall, Norman Rodway and Teresa Gallagher (3/3) (1) 3.00 News: The Afternoon Shift 4.00 News: 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Tim Marlow visits the Cornish galleries at the Natural History Museum and talks to Michael Holroyd about the life and work of Augustus John 4.45 Short Story: Roz, Danny, Henry and Mum, by Ivy Bannister. A teenage girl comes to terms with her mother's new boyfriend and her father's new baby. Read by Fionnuala Murphy (1) 5.00 PM 5.55 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather 6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 Growing Spaces, with Ed Sill 7.00 News 7.05 The Archers 7.20 Pick of the Week. Rosemary Hall presents her selection of extracts from BBC radio and television over the past seven days 8.05 Any Questions? Jonathan Dimbleby chairs a topical discussion in Colford, Devon, with guests Howard Davies; Tim Eggar; MP; Michael Mescher; MP; and Bronwen Warrack 8.50 Law in Action. Marcel Bolins analyses the legal issues which affect our lives 9.15 Letter from America, by Alistair Cooke 9.30 Kaleidoscope Feature. See Choice (1) 9.35 Weather 10.00 The World Tonight, with Robin Lustig 10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Merry Musket (5/10) 11.10 Goodness Gracious! The all-Asian sketch show. With Meera Syal, Kunal Nayyar, Gail, Sangreesh and Nalin Sawney (3/4) 11.25 Fourth Column 11.30 Today in Parliament 12.00 News and 12.27am Weather 12.30 The Late Book: One Thousand Dollars a Week by Lawrence Sanders (1) 12.45 Shipping Forecast 1.00 AM World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 87.5-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.5. LW 198; MW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO UK. MW 1053, 1063. Television: Smith, Susan Thomson and Jane Gregory

Atlanta ego goes for the gold in hokum

In the early hours of tomorrow morning, the opening ceremony will take place and the Atlanta Olympics will finally be under way. Of one thing we can be certain. Sitting in the best seats in the \$540 million (£300 million) stadium, Billy Payne will be wiping away a tear. As we discovered in last night's superb *The Greatest Show on Earth: It's Atlanta* (BBC1), Payne has found the Olympics a strangely lachrymose experience.

Payne is the driving force behind the Atlanta Games, a local lawyer who set about securing the Olympics for the city with a near-obsessive zeal. Since he succeeded he has been getting more emotional by the day.

Spotting a soft target when he saw one, producer-director Michael Waldman employed the same technique he used to such effect in *The House*, pointing a camera at a large ego and waiting for the

inevitable self-inflicted wound. Payne obliged early, as he considered the subject of motivation in his own words. He owed it all apparently (not to mention inevitably) to his father. "Well, what do you think Dad? Are you proud of me now?" He just about answered his own question, "did you do your best, son?" but got no further. He blinked his lower jaw trembled, he opened his mouth ... but no words came out. ... until the audience decided that a standing ovation was preferable to further embarrassment. If they were giving out gold medals for hokum, we had found our winner.

An awful lot of people are hoping that Atlanta, the second Olympic to be held in the United States in just 12 years, falls flat on its over-hyped face. But still more are hoping that the Olympic spirit will once again triumph over the

vulgarity of commerce in a city where even the hotel mini-bars have to be "sponsor-correct". Waldman catered cleverly for both camps - providing an entertaining mixture of scepticism and enthusiasm that was spot on.

He introduced us to "event junkies", the professional logistic experts who know just how many courtesy cars it takes to make an Olympic Games. Finding enough volunteers to drive them was another matter. As one put it: "There always comes a point when people realise that there isn't enough time. What they don't realise is that there is never enough time."

Inevitably, we were bombarded with statistics (my favourite was that they started making the IS million pounds of ice required back in March) but Waldman never let them get in the way of some well-chosen and well-bal-

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

anced stories. Not only had he found the hotel mini-bars moving out of his lake-side mansion, having let it for £200,000 for the three-week duration of the games, he found a woman who was being forcibly evicted from her small apartment so that her landlord could grab a share of the action.

A large part of the \$1.7 billion cost of the games is being recouped by ticket sales and Waldman had

some toe-curling footage of the sales team whooping and hollering themselves towards the target of \$65,000 in sales per hour. He contrasted this temple of Mammon with the financial problem facing the Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan, the Olympic team of which consists of just two archers. The problem, explained a government minister, was the \$500-a-throw cost of modern archery equipment: "Purchasing these bows and arrows has become a drain on our foreign exchange reserves." Still, I liked the look of Bhutan archery - not only is singing and dancing an accepted part of the sport, but tradition dictates that your own team of cheerleaders chant personal insults at your opponent.

Thousands travel to Atlanta in hope. None less so than Anjelica who has just arrived from North Carolina and hopes to put herself through college on the money she

earns during the Games as a stripper. Grab it while you can, Anjelica - by the time we get to Sydney, it will probably be an Olympic sport.

Ever since a much-repeated advertisement where a khaki-clad woman tried to take photographs from a speeding car, while somebody heaved crates at her from the aircraft hold (what was it for ... cars, planes, credit cards?) films about photographers have had a bit of a struggle. As the ad reminded us, photographers talking seriously about their craft run the risk of sounding deeply preposterous.

Philip Jones Griffiths, however, just about got away with it in *The Shoot: Cambodia Odyssey* (BBC2), a gently absorbing documentary made by Richard Traylor-Smith. Jones Griffiths was born in north Wales, became president of Magnum, the New York photo

agency, and for the past 30 years has been obsessed with Cambodia. He was helped by an easy-going manner, fascinating reminiscences, and powerful photographs that captured the beauty but more memorably the horror of Cambodia and Vietnam. That, he explained, was the "horrible truth" of photography: "Things like dead bodies and suffering humanity is, in fact, terribly photogenic." Much of what he had seen and photographed was unprintable. "The task is to achieve some sort of poignancy, without turning people off."

Thirty years on Jones Griffiths was still in love with Cambodia but pessimistic about the future of photography because of the use of computer manipulation of images. That threatened photography's ability to depict the truth. "And once photography loses that, it loses its most valuable criteria."

● Lynne Truss is on holiday

BBC1

- 6.00am Business Breakfast (45695)
- 9.00am BBC Breakfast News (CeeFax) (39616)
- 9.00am Breakfast News (CeeFax) (354906)
- 9.20am Ready, Steady, Cook (r) (s) (6548819)
- 9.50am Living Dangerously: Kites - Kings of Hong Kong (r) (CeeFax) (71134)
- 10.10am FILM: The Last Best Year (1990) Bernadette Peters, Mary Tyler Moore and Brian Bedford in an emotional, made-for-television drama about terminal illness (CeeFax) (22675703)
- 12.00pm News and Weather (CeeFax) (2327819)
- 12.05pm Small Talk (r) (CeeFax) (s) (2782277)
- 12.35pm Neighbours (CeeFax) (s) (9738155)
- 1.00pm News and Weather (CeeFax) (31703)
- 1.30pm Regional News (12358155)
- 1.40pm Penny Mason (CeeFax) (2897364) 3.10 Kites Landing (r) (s) (6295451)
- 3.55pm Golf: The Open. The second round from Royal Lytham and St Anne's Golf Club (s) (249106)
- 5.35pm Neighbours (r) (CeeFax) (s) (141141)
- 6.00pm News and Weather (CeeFax) (155)
- 6.30pm Regional news magazines (635)
- 7.00pm Top of the Pops (CeeFax) (s) (9722)
- 7.30pm Future Fantastic. How science can improve the human body (CeeFax) (s) (819)
- 8.00pm Olympic Game. Steve Ryder introduces the last in the series of the sports quiz. With team captains Daley Thompson and Steve Cram and guests Steve Redgrave and Lennox Lewis (CeeFax) (s) (2242)
- 8.30pm Big Break. Snooker quiz in which celebrity players put balls on behalf of the contestants. Last in series (CeeFax) (s) (4277)
- 9.00pm News: Regional News: Weather (CeeFax) (7616)
- 9.30pm One Foot in the Grave. There is a strange and nasty smell in the living room (r) (CeeFax) (s) (48548)
- 10.00pm FILM: The Chicago Heist. Steve Ryder introduces a preview of 16 days of sporting action in Atlanta as the latest chapters in Olympic history are about to be written (s) (159513)
- 11.30pm FILM: Blazing Saddles (1974) Irreverent western spoof verging on the tasteless, yet one of the genre's top-grossing movies. Starring Cleavon Little, Gene Wilder, Slim Pickens, Madeline Kahn, Harvey Korman and Liza Minnelli. Directed by Mel Brooks (s) (147548)
- 12.55am Olympic Grandstand. Live coverage of the opening ceremony of the 26th Olympics from Atlanta, Georgia (s) (4960562)
- 5.00pm FILM: Trio (1950, b/w). With Jean Simmons and Michael Rennie. Adaptations of three short stories by Somerset Maugham. The Verger, a verger who is sacked for being illiterate goes on to become the owner of a chain of tobacconists. Mr Knowell is the story of a selfish jeweller who is shunned on a cruise; and Sanatorium, the story of patients in a tuberculosis hospital. Ken Annakin and Harold French direct (24020) Ends at 6.35am

VideoPlus+ and the Video Plus Codes
The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video Plus Codes. These numbers allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with the video Plus Code for the programme you wish to record. VideoPlus+ (+), Pluscode (+) and Video Programme are trademarks of Genesis Development Ltd.

For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Vision supplement, published Saturday SKY ONE

- 7.00am Union (74432) 8.00am Press Your Luck (1813342) 9.00am Low Connection (5331610) 9.15am On the Border (5331610) 9.30am On the Border (5331610) 9.45am On the Border (5331610) 10.00am On the Border (5331610) 10.15am On the Border (5331610) 10.30am On the Border (5331610) 10.45am On the Border (5331610) 11.00am On the Border (5331610) 11.15am On the Border (5331610) 11.30am On the Border (5331610) 11.45am On the Border (5331610) 12.00am On the Border (5331610) 12.15am On the Border (5331610) 12.30am On the Border (5331610) 12.45am On the Border (5331610) 1.00am On the Border (5331610) 1.15am On the Border (5331610) 1.30am On the Border (5331610) 1.45am On the Border (5331610) 2.00am On the Border (5331610) 2.15am On the Border (5331610) 2.30am On the Border (5331610) 2.45am On the Border (5331610) 3.00am On the Border (5331610) 3.15am On the Border (5331610) 3.30am On the Border (5331610) 3.45am On the Border (5331610) 4.00am On the Border (5331610) 4.15am On the Border (5331610) 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CRICKET 37

BOWLERS PITCH IN
WITH 25 WICKETS
AT CHELTENHAM

SPORT

FRIDAY JULY 19 1996

OLYMPIC GAMES 40

ROWING'S ENDURING
PARTNERS LOOK TO
IMPROVE AT A STROKE

Posse of Americans gathering to threaten a surprise British leader at the Open

Broadhurst reaps Lytham dividend

By JOHN HOPKINS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

PAUL BROADHURST had a good year in 1988. He won the Lytham Trophy at Royal Lytham and St Annes in the spring and the silver medal for being the leading amateur in the Open Championship at the same venue in July. That knowledge of the intricacies of the course was further augmented when he made a reconnaissance visit to this part of Lancashire in January.

Yesterday Broadhurst received a dividend on the investment he has made in time spent at Royal Lytham. By going round in 65, six under par, and equalling the course record, he opened up a



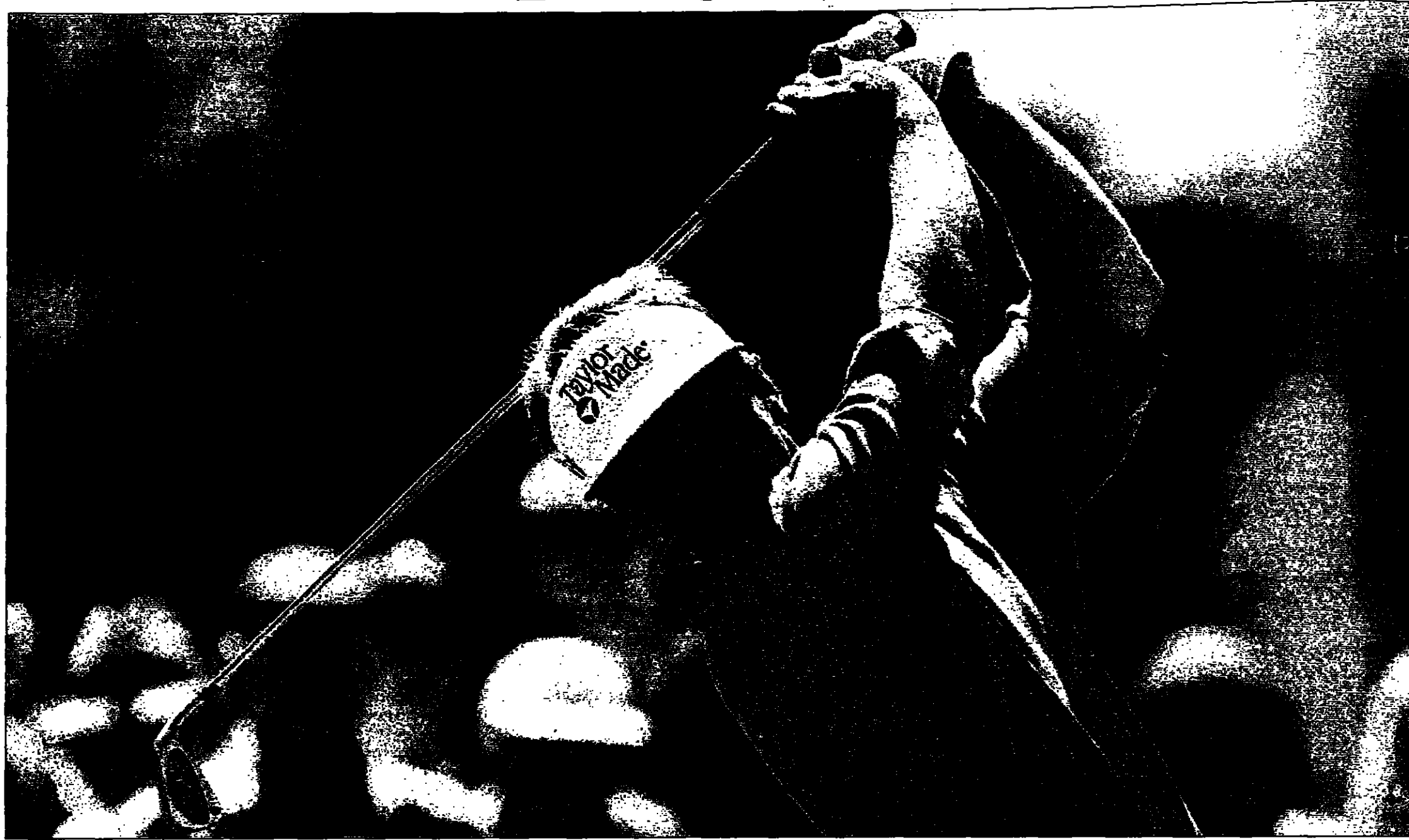
THE OPEN

Clement Freud 41
Faldo's cakewalk 41
Daly's gallop 41
Norman stalls 41

two-stroke lead in the first round of the 125th Open. Give him full marks for trying.

On the European Tour Broadhurst resembles Costantino Rocca in that things happen to him that do not happen to others. He five-putted one green during the Scottish Open at Carnoustie last week, for example, and ran up a nine in the third round of the French Open last year, which he won with a dazzling last round of 63. He had a 63 in the 1990 Open at St Andrews, too.

All those achievements were exceeded by his round yesterday, which was the stuff of dreams. It contained one eagle, four birdies and 23 putts. 11 of them in his last ten holes. "Everyone thinks of leading the Open and I am no exception to that," Broadhurst, 30, said. "I was a bit concerned looking at the leaderboard with all the Americans there. I am surprised it is not windy."



Broadhurst swings into action on the 16th at Lytham yesterday, on his way to a record-equalling 65, six under par, and the leadership of the Open. Photographs: Ian Stewart

Normally it is. Whether that is why the Americans are doing well I have no idea. It is summer over here and you do get some sunny days in summer. I am sure the Americans prefer it this way."

Such ideal conditions as existed yesterday make for crowded leaderboards and before play had ended nearly one third of the field had achieved scores of par - 71 - or better. Broadhurst is chased by a posse of competitors on 67, four under par, including the Americans Fred Couples, Tom Lehman, Loren Roberts, Mark O'Meara, Brad Faxon,

Mark McCumber and Mark Brooks. There could hardly have been a more determined start to the American professionals' attempt to take home the Open trophy from Lytham for the first time.

One stroke behind them is Nick Faldo, whose 68 was sealed by the way he played the inward half in three under par, after earlier enduring one of those spells when he did everything right from tee to green except hole-out with one putt.

Jack Nicklaus had a 69 to prove that being unable to get out of bed in the morning is no

handicap to playing good golf and is presumably preferable to tripping down the stairs of one's hotel, falling over and breaking the second toe of one's left foot, which is what happened to Curtis Strange. Nicklaus's back had been in spasm. "I couldn't stand up, I couldn't sit down, I couldn't do anything," he said. "I was real pretty this morning. My body was so twisted I looked like a pretzel."

Nicklaus telephoned Pete Egoscue, a man he describes as an anatomical functionalist in San Diego, and, with the telephone sometimes to his ear

and sometimes resting on the floor, Nicklaus did one exercise after another as instructed by Egoscue until his back was sufficiently pain-free for him to play. Then he played what he described as a pretty good round of golf.

Beware the injured golfer indeed. Nick Price, who will have an operation on his sinuses later this year, received a considerable ovation when he marched in the fading sunshine towards the 18th green with Ben Crenshaw and Philip Walton. He had a 68. Paul Azinger, on his way to a 74, snapped his putter over

his knee on the 9th and putted with an iron thereafter.

The Scot who first said: "If there's nae wind, it's nae gowf," would have sniffed disapprovingly at the conditions here yesterday. In the morning there was a blue of Mediterranean clarity overhead and in the stillness of the glade where the 1st tee is half-circled in an embrace of trees, it was so quiet that it was possible to forget the competitors were teeing-off.

The course looked as though it should have been there for taking. Nevertheless, it had too much spirit to be subdued

by everyone. Ballesteros, for one, failed to master it.

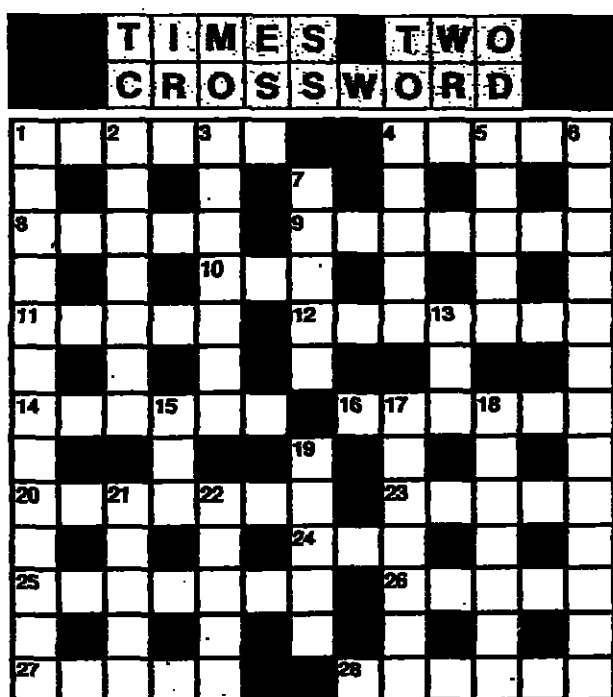
The highlight of his otherwise modest round came when he slashed a wild drive to the right of the 16th and then birdied the hole. "This time there were no cars," he said, laughing. Ballesteros could do no wrong in front of an adoring gallery and could do little right from the tee.

John Daly, the defending champion, scorched to the turn in 31 only to bogey four holes coming home for a 70, one under par.

"When you wake up in the morning and see the condi-

tions you know you must make a good start," Faxon said. "You have good greens in front of you and it's time to go. No wind at a British Open is very unusual." He emphasised his concern at the number of withdrawals by Americans this year, saying that 11 US PGA Tour professionals had signed up to try to qualify and four had withdrawn. "That is a poor ratio," he said.

"If you are a young American and you are trying to get your card maybe you should stay at home. But this is the Olympics of golf."



No 838

- ACROSS**
1. Wraith, when worshipped (6)
 4. Causing death (5)
 8. Take-away sign (5)
 9. Graduate (US) (7)
 10. Pet: whip (3)
 11. Shark: look after (5)
 12. Raging fire (7)
 14. Vent: channel (6)
 16. Group of geese (6)
 20. Fete raffle (7)
 23. Discolouring mark (5)
 24. Obtain: receive (3)
 25. Seize: attention from (7)
 26. Position-detecting beam (5)
 27. Door-to-jamb fastening (5)
 28. Light: game often not worth it (6)
- DOWN**
2. Critical juncture (6,2,5)
 3. Mosque tower (7)
 5. Not for family viewing (7)
 6. Woolly particles: get lines wrong (5)
 7. Copier powder: cosmetic (5)
 13. Hien product: incite (3)
 15. Play (ball) over one's head (3)
 17. Country: shilling its currency (7)
 18. Protected: non-committal (7)
 19. Bet (5)
 21. Skilled stoneworker (5)
 22. Make speech (5)

The solution to 837 will be published Wednesday, July 24

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EARLY FIRST-ROUND LEADERBOARD																			
Royal Lytham and St Annes: Par 71 (5,892 yards)																			
Outward nine - 35 (3,330 yards); Inward nine - 36 (3,562 yards)																			
	Hole	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	Yards	206	437	457	393	212	490	553	418	164	334	542	198	342	445	463	357	457	414
	Par	3	4	3	3	4	5	4	4	3	4	5	3	4	4	4	3	4	4
P Broadhurst	3	4	4	4	3	3	5	4	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	65
F Couples	3	4	4	4	3	3	5	4	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	67
M Tanelo	3	4	4	4	3	3	5	4	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	67
M McCumber	3	4	4	4	3	3	5	4	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	67
B Faxon	3	4	4	4	3	3	5	4	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	67
M O'Meara	3	4	4	4	3	3	5	4	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	67
T Lehman	3	4	4	4	3	3	5	4	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	67
L Roberts	3	4	4	4	3	3	5	4	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	67
M Brooks	3	4	4	4	3	3	5	4	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	67

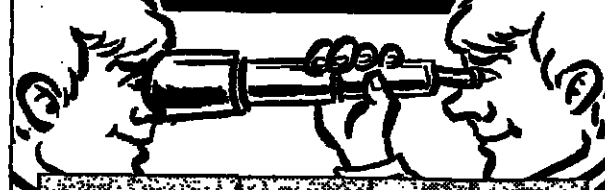
OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

- Great Britain and Ireland unless stated
- 65: P Broadhurst.
- 67: F Couples (US), M McCumber (US), H Tanelo (Japan), B Faxon (US), M O'Meara (US), T Lehman (US), L Roberts (US), M Brooks (US).
- 68: N Faldo, P Harrington, S Montyama (Japan), J Furyk (US), E Els (SA), N Price (Zim).
- 69: J Maggert (US), P McGinley, J Nicklaus (US), M Jonzon (Swe), V Singh (Fiji), M McNulty (Zim), R Mediate (US).
- 70: P Stewart (US), F Zoeller (US), B Hughes (Aus), B Mayfair (US), M James, D Frost (SA), J Haas (US), A Johnstone (Zim), B Ogilvie (Aus), E Romero (Arg), P J Johansson (Swe), J Daly (US), M Farry (Fiji), P Hedblom (Swe), F Nobilo (NZ), D Clarke, C Pavin (US).
- 71: M Mackenzie, D Gifford, L Westwood, R Charles (NZ), D A Weir (US), G Norman (Aus), S Snicker (US), M Welch, B Lane, S Simpson (US), C Rocca (It), C Strange (US), S Ames (Irn), C Stadler (US), A Lyle, T Hamilton (US), G Player (SA), P Mitchell.
- 72: A Langenecken (Bel), R Wilson, J Parnevik (Swe), P Jacobson (US), J Hascgorn (Swe), H Clark, G Turner (NZ), S Torrance, J Payne, J Sluman (US), D Love III (US).
- 73: R McFarlane, S Jones (US), W Riley (Aus), P O'Malley (Aus), T Tolles (US), Y Kaneko (Japan), C Montgomery, B Estes (US), P Ekins, E Daray, A Sherborne, W Bladen, B Barnes, A Cejka (Ger), B Crenshaw (US).
- 74: J Rivero (Sp), R Allenby (Aus), S Ballesteros (Sp), P Senior (Aus), D Borego (Sp), F Tarnaud (Fiji), B McCol, S Cagle, L Janzen (US), T Herron (US), C Pamy (Aus), P Azinger (US).
- 75: B Langer (Ger), A Forsbrand (Swe), M A Jimenez (Sp), A Mednick (Swe), S Allan (Aus), S Elkington (Aus), S Higashi (Japan), T Woods (US), J Robson, I Woodsam, M Campbell (NZ).
- 76: H Meshai (Japan), G Emerson, S Murphy (US), D Duval (US), S Garcia (Sp).
- 77: T Kite (US), D Feherty, R Lee, T Price (Aus), A Oldcorn.
- 78: P Lawrie, I Baker-Finch (Aus), W Westner (SA), R Drummond.
- 79: J Leonard (US), R Tway (US).
- 80: B Watts (US).



Nicklaus, who needed transatlantic physiotherapy to get to the course, plots a putt with his son, Jack Jr

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